

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 652



Introduced by: **REP. TOBIAS "TOBY" M. TIANGCO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Two decades has passed since the passage of Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998 and yet, there is a little progress as to the establishment of settlement for the fisherfolks. As a result, fisherfolks continue to be a very vulnerable sector, continually displaced not only by natural calamities, but also by industrial and tourism-related development.

A consultation workshop with the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (UN-FAO) shows that the Filipino fisherfolk is among the poorest of the poor. The said workshop also revealed that the displacement of fishermen is one of the causes why fisherfolks belong to the poorest of the poor despite the country's rich marine resources.

This measure aims to strengthen the mandate and facilitate the establishment of settlement areas for fisherfolks by including the local government units of coastal areas, and the newly created Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development as co-implementing agencies of the Department of Agriculture.

It is hoped that with this measure, the intended protection for the rights and welfare of fisherfolks, who are mostly underprivileged, will finally be realized. In addition, this bill has been approved in third reading by the 19th Congress.

In light of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


TOBIAS "TOBY" M. TIANGCO
Representative
Lone District, Navotas City

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HOUSE BILL NO. 652

Introduced by: **REP. TOBIAS "TOBY" M. TIANGCO**

AN ACT

MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FISHERFOLK RESETTLEMENT AREAS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SEC. 108 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8550, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "PHILIPPINE FISHERIES CODE OF 1998," AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10654

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Section 108 of Republic Act No. 8550, otherwise known as "The Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998", as amended by Republic Act No. 10654, is hereby amended to read as follows:

SEC. 108. *Fisherfolk Settlement Areas.* — [The Department shall establish and create fisherfolk settlement areas in coordination with concerned agencies of the government, where certain areas of the public domain, specifically near the fishing ground, shall be reserved for the settlement of the municipal fisherfolk. Nothing in this section shall be construed to vest ownership of any resettlement area to a municipal fisherfolk for whom said areas may have been reserved for or had been actually granted to.]

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS OF CITIES OR MUNICIPALITIES EXERCISING JURISDICTION OVER COASTAL AREAS AND MUNICIPAL WATERS, SHALL IDENTIFY, ESTABLISH, AND CREATE SETTLEMENT AREAS WHICH HAVE ADEQUATE ACCESS TO FISHING GROUNDS: *PROVIDED*, THAT IN PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED OR ESTABLISHED SETTLEMENT AREAS WITH ADEQUATE ACCESS TO FISHING GROUNDS, FISHERFOLK SHALL BE GRANTED PREFERENCE IN THE AWARD OF SETTLEMENT RIGHTS THEREAT: *PROVIDED*, FURTHER, THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SETTLEMENT AREAS SHALL BE IN FAVOR OF FISHERFOLK

1 WHO ARE REGISTERED AS SUCH WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE CITY OR
2 MUNICIPALITY AND WHO ARE WITHOUT REAL PROPERTY: PROVIDED, FINALLY,
3 THAT LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS EXERCISING JURISDICTION OVER COASTAL
4 AREAS AND MUNICIPAL WATERS ARE HEREBY 5 MANDATED TO INTEGRATE
5 SETTLEMENT AREAS FOR FISHERFOLK IN THEIR RESPECTIVE
6 COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLANS".
7

8 **SEC. 2. *Separability Clause.*** – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared
9 unconstitutional or invalid, the other portions or provisions hereof, which are not affected
10 thereby, shall remain in full force and effect.

11 **SEC. 3. *Repealing Clause.*** -All other laws, decrees, orders, circulars, issuances,
12 rules and regulations and part thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby
13 repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

14 **SEC. 4. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete
15 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,