



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4895



Introduced by Representatives LORDAN G. SUAN

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish a fish port and cold storage facility in Barangay Bayabas, City of Cagayan de Oro, Province of Misamis Oriental.

Section 7, Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution provides:

“Section 7. The State shall protect the rights of subsistence fishermen, especially of local communities, to the preferential use of local marine and fishing resources, both inland and offshore. It shall provide support to such fishermen through appropriate technology and research, adequate financial, production, and marketing assistance, and other services. x x x”

The fish port in the said city shall serve as a distribution center with efficient post-harvest facilities that meet the industry's requirements for maintaining quality marine products. Otherwise stated, establishing said fish port will provide an avenue for trade and consumer access for small-time fisherfolks in the locality.

On the other hand, based on data from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, approximately 25 to 40 percent of the total fish production in the Philippines is lost from the distribution chain due to a shortage in post-harvest equipment like blast freezers and ice-making machines as well as facilities like cold storage warehouses and fish landing sites.

Establishing cold storage facility with proper equipment will help maintain the freshness and quality of fishery products and prevent spoilage. Should the

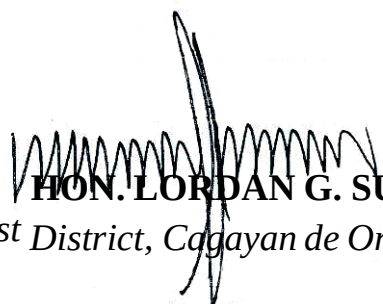
spoilage of catch be lowered, the country would no longer depend on importing fish from other countries.

The establishment of a fish port and cold storage facility is likewise consistent with the pertinent provision of Republic Act No. 8550, otherwise known as “The Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998,” which provides:

“Section 59. Establishment of Post-Harvest Facilities for Fishing Communities. - The LGUs shall coordinate with the private sector and other concerned agencies and FARMCs in the establishment of post-harvest facilities for fishing communities such as, but not limited to, municipal fish landing sites, fish ports, ice plants and cold storage and other fish processing establishments to serve primarily the needs of municipal fisherfolk: Provided, That such post-harvest facilities shall be consistent with the Comprehensive Post-harvest and Ancillary Industries Plan.”

Therefore, the establishment of post-harvest facilities for fishing communities is necessary and essential in supporting subsistence fisheries in exercising their rights to benefit from the country’s fisheries resources, especially in municipal waters.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


HON. LORDAN G. SUAN
1st District, Cagayan de Oro City



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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A FISH PORT AND COLD STORAGE FACILITY IN
BARANGAY BAYABAS, CITY OF CAGAYAN DE ORO, PROVINCE OF
MISAMIS ORIENTAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. There shall be established, under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture, through the Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA), a fish port and cold storage facility in Barangay Bayabas, City of Cagayan de Oro, Province of Misamis Oriental.

SEC. 2. Within two (2) years after the construction of the fish port and cold storage facility, the PFDA, through a memorandum of agreement, shall transfer its management to the local government unit concerned. It shall implement a training and phasing-in program for local government personnel on the management and operation of the fish port and cold storage facility.

SEC. 3. The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department's programs the establishment of the fish port and cold storage facility in Barangay

Bayabas, City of Cagayan de Oro, Province of Misamis Oriental, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The local government unit concerned shall set aside funds from any available local revenue in an amount deemed appropriate for the operationalization of the fish port and cold storage facility.

SEC. 4. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations on the supervision, operation, monitoring, and eventual transfer of the management of the fish port and cold storage facility in Barangay Bayabas, City of Cagayan de Oro, Province of Misamis Oriental.

SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,