

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 4989

Introduced by:

HON. CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The State, under Republic Act No. 8435 or the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act of 1997, has declared as a policy the empowerment of those in the agriculture and fisheries sectors, enabling them to participate and share in the fruits of national development. This is to be achieved by ensuring equitable access to assets, income, basic and support services, and infrastructure, and by promoting the rational and sustainable use of the nation's resources. The law further commits the State to the principles of poverty alleviation and social equity, food security, rational use of resources, global competitiveness, sustainable development, people empowerment, and protection from unfair competition.

Fish ports are vital post-harvest facilities that not only extend the marketable life of fisherfolk's catch but also serve as critical distribution hubs for both local and distant markets. The absence of such infrastructure in key fishing communities hampers the ability of fisherfolk to maximize the value of their harvest, limits market access, and undermines efforts to ensure food security.

This measure seeks to address these gaps by establishing a fish port in the Municipality of Macrohon, Province of Southern Leyte. The proposed facility will empower local fisherfolk and fish workers, enhance their income opportunities, and contribute to the stability and security of the food supply in the region and beyond. In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.

In view of the foregoing, and in the spirit of SERBISYONG TINUORAY (genuine public service), the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP
Representative, Second District of Southern Leyte

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A FISH PORT IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MACROHON, PROVINCE
OF SOUTHERN LEYTE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. — It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote the welfare of fisherfolk, ensure food security, and support the sustainable development of the fisheries sector by providing adequate post-harvest and marketing facilities. Towards this end, the State shall establish and maintain fish ports in strategic coastal municipalities to enhance the livelihood of fishing communities, strengthen local economies, and guarantee the efficient distribution of fishery products.

SECTION 2. Short Title. — This Act shall be known as the "Macrohon Fish Port Act."

SECTION 3. Establishment of a Fish Port. — A fish port shall be established in the Municipality of Macrohon, Province of Southern Leyte, under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture through the Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA).

SECTION 4. Transfer of Management to the Local Government Unit. — Not later than two (2) years after the completion of the project, the PFDA shall, through a memorandum of agreement, turn over the administration and operation of the fish port to the local government unit (LGU) of Macrohon. For this purpose, the PFDA shall

implement a training and transition program to equip LGU personnel with the capability to properly manage and operate the facility.

SECTION 5. Appropriations. — The Secretary of Agriculture shall allocate funds for the establishment of the fish port in Macrohon under the Department's programs, to be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The LGU concerned shall also appropriate funds from available local revenues as may be necessary for the operation and maintenance of the facility.

SECTION 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture, through the PFDA and in coordination with the LGU of Macrohon, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the supervision, operation, monitoring, and eventual transfer of the fish port to the LGU.

SECTION 7. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,