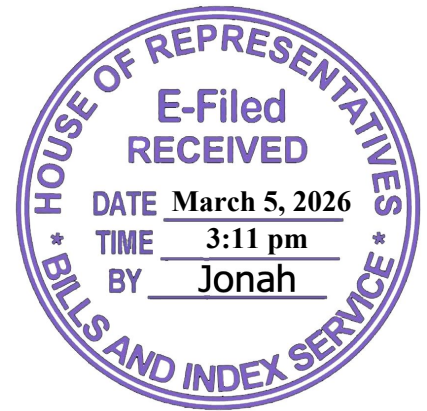


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8318



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ADRIAN MICHAEL A. AMATONG

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Under Sec. 7, Article XIII of the Constitution, the State is mandated to “protect the right of subsistence fishermen, especially of local communities, to the preferential use of the communal marine and fishing resources, both inland and offshore.” Furthermore, the State shall “provide support to such fishermen through appropriate technology and research, adequate financial, production and marketing assistance, and other services.”

This constitutional mandate is far from realized, as there is a glaring inadequacy in the number of our municipal fish landing centers, the designated places where our subsistence fisherfolk unload and store their fish catch. In the 2021 Listing of Marine Fish Landing Centers of the Philippine Statistics Authority, there are only 12,773 municipal fish landing centers in the whole Philippines, of which 12,366 are considered “traditional” or without any managing administration.

Another problem that our fisherfolk face is fish spoilage. The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources has reported that the current fish spoilage across the country is between 25 to 40 percent because of the shortage in post-harvest equipment, like blast freezers, ice-making machines, cold storage warehouses, and fish landing sites.

Thus, this measure seeks to establish a fish port with ice plant and cold storage facility in Barangay La Libertad, Municipality of Gutalac, Province of Zamboanga del Norte. Establishing the fish port with ice plant and cold storage facility in La Libertad, Gutalac is feasible, considering that the area boasts of high-valued marine resources from the Sulu Sea. It will also help the residents who are mostly subsistence fisherfolk, as they will be provided with the necessary facilities where they can unload and store the fish that they catch.

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

ADRIAN MICHAEL A. AMATONG

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8318

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ADRIAN MICHAEL A. AMATONG

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FISH PORT WITH ICE PLANT
AND COLD STORAGE FACILITY IN BARANGAY LA LIBERTAD,
MUNICIPALITY OF GUTALAC, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE,
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 with ice plant and cold storage facility in Barangay La Libertad, Municipality of Gutalac, Province of Zamboanga del Norte.

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

SEC. 3. The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department's programs the establishment of the fish port with ice plant and cold storage facility, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The LGU concerned shall set aside funds from any available local revenue the amount necessary for the operationalization of the fish port with ice plant and cold storage facility.

SEC. 4. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall issue the rules and regulations on the supervision, monitoring, and transfer of the said fish port with ice plant and cold storage facility by the PFDA to the LGU concerned.

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,