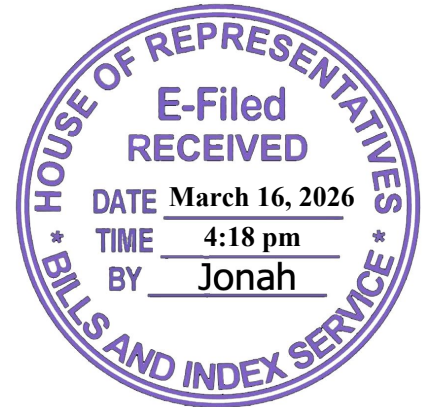


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 8555

Introduced by **REP. BERNADETTE "DETTE" G. ESCUDERO**

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A FISH PORT IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PILAR, PROVINCE
OF SORSOGON AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The enactment of the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998 embodies the State's policy of extending full support to the fishery sector, particularly to municipal fisherfolk, including women and youth, through appropriate technology and research, adequate financial and production assistance, the establishment of post-harvest facilities, marketing support, and other related services.

Consistent with this state policy, this bill seeks to establish a fish port in the Municipality of Pilar, Province of Sorsogon.

Pilar has long maintained a close and enduring connection with the sea, historically known as a shipbuilding town with a tradition of boat-building and maritime activity. At present, it also hosts the Pilar seaport, which serves travelers and motorized bancas plying nearby island routes. These circumstances affirm the municipality's established maritime character and highlight the central role of coastal transport and marine-based livelihood in its economy and way of life. A fish port in the area would help minimize fish spoilage, enhance product quality, reduce transport time, and generate opportunities for ice storage, trading, hauling, and other allied livelihood activities. These are precisely the forms of support needed in communities where fishing remains an important source of food, income, and local economic development.¹

The establishment of a fish port in Pilar is therefore both timely and necessary. The Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) has emphasized that fishing ports and post-harvest facilities are critical to the full development of the fisheries sector because fish are highly perishable and require strategically located landing points where catch may be immediately sold, stored, processed, or shipped to markets. PIDS further noted that municipal fishing ports in the country have

¹ Sorsogon Provincial Government. (n.d.). Municipalities of Sorsogon. <https://sorsogon.gov.ph/municipalities-of-sorsogon/>

historically been inadequate, and that many lacked basic post-harvest facilities such as warehouses and ice plants.²

Moreover, this measure can advance broader development goals for Sorsogon. It can support municipal fisherfolk, attract buyers and seafood traders, improve local value-adding activities, and stimulate complementary enterprises in logistics, retail, and tourism. It can also help institutionalize better fisheries management by concentrating fish landings in a facility where sanitation, traceability, post-harvest practices, and conservation-oriented regulation may be more effectively enforced.

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



HON. BERNADETTE "DETTE" G. ESCUDERO
Representative
1st District, Sorsogon

² Israel, D. C., & Roque, R. M. G. R. (2000, January). *Analysis of fishing ports in the Philippines* (Discussion Paper Series No. 2000-04). Philippine Institute for Development Studies. <https://pidswebs.pids.gov.ph/CDN/PUBLICATIONS/pidsdps0004.pdf>

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** This Act shall be known as the "Pilar Fish Port
2 Development Act".

3
4 **SEC. 2. Establishment of Fish Port.** There shall be established, under the
5 supervision of the Department of Agriculture, through the Philippine Fisheries
6 Development Authority (PFDA), a fish landing port in the Barangay of San Rafael,
7 Municipality of Pilar, Province of Sorsogon.

8
9 **SEC. 3. Transfer of Management to the Local Government Unit.** Within
10 two (2) years after the construction of the fish port, the PFDA, through a memorandum
11 of agreement, shall transfer its management to the local government unit concerned.
12 It shall implement a training and phasing-in program for local government personnel
13 on the management and operation of the fish port.

14
15 **SEC. 4. Appropriations.** The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the
16 Department's programs the establishment of the fish port, the funding of which shall
17 be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The local government unit
18 concerned shall set said funds from any available local revenue in an amount deemed
19 appropriate for the operationalization of the fish port.

20
21 **SEC. 5. Effectivity.** This Act shall take effect immediately following the
22 completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general
23 circulation.

Approved,