

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10700



Introduced by REP. YSABEL MARIA J. ZAMORA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippine textile industry is one of the country's industries with significant potential for growth. Neo-ethnic textiles not only promote and preserve our culture but also support local weavers and artisans whose craftsmanship has been passed down through generations. The intricate designs, vibrant colors, and indigenous patterns found in Philippine textiles reflect the richness of our history and embody the unique identity of the Filipino people.

In the Philippines, native textiles have become an integral part of many aspects of our lives. They are prominently featured in academic regalia, where their beautiful patterns and colors represent the identity and traditions of our educational institutions. Likewise, more Filipinos are incorporating neo-ethnic textiles into formal attire and other occasions, demonstrating a growing appreciation for clothing made from indigenous materials and native fabrics. This increasing demand highlights the vast opportunities for the Philippine clothing and textile industry to flourish while preserving our cultural heritage.

This bill seeks to promote and institutionalize the development of the neo-ethnic Philippine textile and handloom weaving industry by providing the necessary support for local weavers, encouraging innovation, and creating greater market opportunities for Philippine-made textiles. By strengthening this industry, the State not only preserves an important part of the nation's cultural heritage but also generates sustainable livelihoods and contributes to inclusive economic growth.

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


REP. YSABEL MARIA J. ZAMORA
Lone District, City of San Juan

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AN ACT
PROMOTING AND INSTITUTIONALIZING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEO-ETHNIC PHILIPPINE TEXTILE AND HANDLOOM WEAVING INDUSTRY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the "Philippine Neo-Ethnic Textile Development Act."

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to instill patriotism and nationalism among the Filipino people, with emphasis on the youth, by fostering an abiding sense of loyalty to the Republic and deep appreciation of the nation's unique cultural heritage. The State recognizes the essential role of the education system in inculcating the values of responsible citizenship, national identity, and cultural pride, and shall endeavor to promote the preservation, development, and propagation of Philippine traditions as part of the formation of civic virtues.

Pursuant to this policy, the State shall undertake appropriate measures to preserve, promote, and support indigenous artistic expressions — including, but not limited to, handloom weaving and the production of neo-ethnic Philippine textiles — as integral components of the national cultural patrimony. These textiles, which reinterpret traditional designs for contemporary use while preserving their cultural roots, shall be recognized as vital expressions of Filipino identity and as tools for cultural continuity.

In furtherance thereof, the preferential use of locally manufactured goods — particularly those utilizing indigenous materials, traditional knowledge systems, neo-ethnic design innovations, and local technologies shall be encouraged in both public and private spheres.

These efforts shall aim not only to safeguard cultural heritage, but also to support rural livelihoods, strengthen culture-based industries, and contribute to inclusive national development.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. – For purposes of this Act, the following terms are hereby defined as follows:

- (a) Handloom - refers to a device used in weaving fabrics by holding the warp threads under tension to facilitate the interweaving of the weft threads;
- (b) Handloom weaving industry - composed of the interrelated and interconnected component supply chain realizing the production of textiles through the handloom;
- (c) Neo-ethnic Philippines textiles - refers to textiles made of or containing natural or indigenous materials, sourced and/or produced in the Philippines using updated, relevant, and green scientific and technological approaches and innovations; while integrating and/or retaining traditional patterns, designs, icons, motifs and/or approaches, and thus, contribute to livelihood generation and in sustaining the local handloom weaving and textile heritage.

SEC. 4. Objectives – This Act shall have the following objectives:

- (a) To recognize and support the handloom weaving industry and neo-ethnic textile production as essential elements of the country's intangible cultural heritage;
- (b) To ensure the sustainability and economic viability of traditional weaving communities through training, access to markets, financing, and infrastructure support;
- (c) To promote cultural innovation through the integration of traditional and neo-ethnic designs in commercial, ceremonial, and institutional settings;
- (d) To create a national registry of recognized weaving communities, patterns, and techniques, in collaboration with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and concerned agencies;
- (e) To integrate the appreciation and use of Philippine indigenous and neo-ethnic textiles in education, government functions, and national events; and
- (f) To protect indigenous intellectual property and promote ethical collaboration between designers, brands, and cultural communities.

SEC. 5. Establishment of the National Neo-Ethnic Textile Development Council. – The National Neo-Ethnic Textile Development Council, hereinafter referred to as the Council, shall be composed of the following agencies:

- (a) Department of Science and Technology;
- (b) Department of Trade and Industry;
- (c) National Commission for Culture and the Arts;

- (d) National Commission on Indigenous Peoples;
- (e) Commission on Higher Education;
- (f) Technical Education and Skills Development Authority;
- (g) Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority;
- (h) Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines; and
- (i) Three (3) representatives of accredited handloom weaving and textile industry associations;

SEC. 6. The National Neo-Ethnic Textile Development Policy. — The Council shall formulate the National Neo-Ethnic Textile Development Policy within one (1) year from its creation. The Policy shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (a) Formulation of the Neo-Ethnic Textile Industry Roadmap;
- (b) Innovations in weaving design and engineering;
- (c) Technical support mechanism for sustainable weaving activities;
- (d) Development and promotion of neo-ethnic Philippine textiles;
- (e) Development of Philippine Standards for Handloom Woven Textiles;
- (f) Intellectual property protection framework for neo-ethnic Philippine textiles;
- (g) Development of a database of neo-ethnic Philippine textiles;
- (h) Development of textile-related technical and skills and vocational programs; and
- (i) Education and training.

SEC. 7. Academic Regalia from Neo-Ethnic Philippine Textiles. - As a means to elevate the dignity and visibility of Philippine culture within formal institutions, the use of neo-ethnic Philippine textiles in the academic regalia of all State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) and Local Universities and Colleges (LUCs) is hereby prescribed. The SUCs and LUCs shall promote the continuing development of culture-based industries, sustain the livelihoods of local artisan communities, and advance inclusive economic growth by generating employment rooted in cultural heritage.

SEC. 8. Appropriations. — The amount of Ten Million Pesos (Php 10,000,000.00) is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury for the initial implementation of this Act. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be appropriated as a distinct and separate item.

SEC. 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Science and Technology and the Department of Trade and Industry shall promulgate implementing rules and regulations of this Act.

SEC. 10. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 11. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 12. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least one (1) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,