

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **10724**



Introduced by **Rep. ANGELO MARCOS BARBA**
2nd District, Ilocos Norte

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Philippine handicrafts are an echo of the Filipino people's cultural heritage and a staple in the Philippine economy. Such items tell the story of the Filipino people and showcase the maker's mastery of skills developed through years of practice. One of these cultural handicrafts largely concern tree or plant fibers.

The Philippine fiber industry is a major contributor in the Philippine economy and stands as one of the products of artistic expression that help in preserving the cultural heritage of the different Filipino peoples engaged in handicraft. Such plant fibers are used to produce culturally-relevant and quality products which the Filipino people can proudly call their own. Therefore, there is a need to ensure the preservation of such fibers which are the by-products of varying plant flora.

In order to achieve this end, the proposed measure seeks to regulate the propagation, production and processing, among other things, of the Filipino major fibers primarily used for Philippine handicrafts. Moreover, this measure seeks to strengthen research and development efforts on the propagation and cultivation of such fibers, thereby ensuring the preservation of their genealogy while still being utilized optimally to produce the local products by which they are being used.

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


ANGELO MARCOS BARBA

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AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PHILIPPINE FIBER INDUSTRY
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

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 Fiber Industry Development Program.**”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and promote the right of the Filipino people to a better quality of life, improve their living conditions, through programs that provide sustainable livelihood, increase employment, and protect the environment.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* - As used in this Act:

- (a) **Program** refers to the Philippine Fiber Industry Development Program (PFIDP) designed to promote the competitiveness of the Philippine fiber industry worldwide;
- (b) **Philippine Fiber Industry Development Council (PFIDC)** refers to the council established herewith; and
- (c) **Secretariat** refers to the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Textile Research Institute (DOST-PTRI), which shall be the Secretariat of the PFIDC as contained herewith.

SECTION 4. *Creation of the Philippine Fiber Industry Development Coordinating Council.* - There is hereby created a Philippine Fiber Industry Development Coordinating Council (PFIDCC). hereinafter referred to as the Council, administratively attached to the

DOST-PTRI, charged with the main function of coordinating the activities of various agencies and instrumentalities to ensure the accomplishment of the Philippine Fiber Framework for Development.

The Chairman of the Council shall submit an annual report to both Houses of Congress on the status of the implementation of this Act.

SECTION 5. *Composition of the PFIDCC.* - The PFIDCC shall be composed of the following:

- (a) Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) as Chairman;
- (b) The Executive Director of the Philippine Textile Research Institute (PTRI) as Head of the Council Secretariat;
- (c) Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR);
- (d) Secretary of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR);
- (e) Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA);
- (f) Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI);
- (g) Representative from the League of Municipalities of the Philippines;
- (h) Representative from the League of Provinces;
- (i) Representative from the state universities and colleges (SUCs) with Fiber Development Extension Program;
- (j) Representative from a reputable Private Fiber Industry Association;
- (k) Two (2) Representatives from Fiber Farmers/Producers/Processors' Associations; and
- (l) One (1) Representative from Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

The council shall regularly meet every two (2) months and may hold special meetings, whenever the need arises, to consider urgent matters upon the call of the Chairman or any seven (7) Council members.

SECTION 6. *Institutionalizing the Philippine Fiber Industry Development Program.* - There is hereby established the Philippine Fiber Industry Development Program (PFIDP), within the mandate of the DOST-PTRI, which shall be a ten (10)-year framework and shall serve as a guide to the formulation and implementation of plans, projects, programs, and policies for the scientific propagation, processing, utilization, and expansion of trade of Philippine major fibers. The Framework shall likewise provide for the following:

- (a) ***Site Identification.*** The DENR, in coordination with the DA, DAR, and local government units (LGUs), shall identify the broad areas suitable for the planning and propagation of Philippine fibers, within six (6) months after the effectivity of this Act;
- (b) ***Scientific Propagation and Development.*** The DENR and the DOST shall establish cultivation and propagation of Philippine disease-free and disease-resistant varieties of Philippine major fibers. The DOST shall also provide for the transfer and improvement of appropriate technology and techniques, which will be utilized in the production, processing, marketing, and distribution. Particular emphasis shall also be made on adoption and upgrading of post-harvest technology;
- (c) ***Production Supply and Extension.*** The DENR, DA, DTI, and the DOST, in coordination with LGUs, NGOs, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Cooperative Development Agency (CDA), SUCs, and other relevant government agencies, shall establish programs which promote and provide adequate training on adapting technologies to individuals engaged in propagation, production, processing, marketing, and distribution of Philippine fiber, and strengthen farmers/producers/processors' cooperatives and organizations involved in the sustainable and viable development of Philippine fiber;
- (d) ***Market Promotion and Expansion of Trade.*** The DTI, in coordination with Private Industry Associations, shall link up agribusiness cooperatives and organizations directly with consumers' cooperatives and organizations, agro-processing companies, or exporters to provide marketing outlets and assure relatively higher and stable prices of fiber. This also includes exploring national and international markets and facilitating the participation of local farmers, growers, and exporters in local and international conferences, trade fairs, expositions, and exhibits;

- (e) **Infrastructure Development.** Access to post-harvest facilities as well as storage and distribution/transport facilities of existing government agencies shall be facilitated by the DENR, DA, and the LGUs;
- (f) **Quality Assurance.** To ensure health and proper trading, the DTI and the DOST shall establish and enforce standards in grading, sampling, and inspection, tests and analysis, specifications, nomenclature, units of measurement, packaging, preservation, conservation, or transportation of Philippine fiber products and by-products; and
- (g) **Philippine Fiber Information Center.** The DTI, in coordination with LGUs, shall establish a Philippine Fiber Information Center in areas where fiber is abundant.

SECTION 7. Philippine Fiber Information Fund. - To provide for the funding requirements for the propagation, production, processing, marketing, promotion, and distribution of Philippine fiber, there is hereby created a Philippine Fiber Development Fund (PFDF), with an initial amount of Five hundred million pesos (P500,000,000.00) upon the approval of this Act and every year thereafter, to be provided by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) in the DOST-PTRI's budget. This is in addition to PTRI's existing allocation under the General Appropriations Act for the development of other fibers and its administrative, regulatory, and operational expenses.

For the succeeding years, for the next nine (9) years from the approval of this Act, a minimum amount of not less than P500,000,000.00 annually shall be allocated for the development and sustainability of the Philippine fiber industry. The requirements of cooperating agencies shall be incorporated in their respective budget from the General Appropriations fund.

SECTION 8. The Council Secretariat. - The Council Secretariat shall be headed by the Director of the PTRI. The Secretariat and technical staff shall be detailed from their existing personnel without prejudice to the designation by the Council of such additional staff members as it may deem necessary for the proper discharge of its functions and responsibilities.

SECTION 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The Philippine Fiber Industry Development Coordinating Council shall formulate and prescribe the necessary implementing rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 10. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 11. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, rule or regulation inconsistent or contrary to the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 12. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,