

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6566



Introduced by Representative **SHAREE ANN T. TAN**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Province of Samar, particularly the Municipality of Basey, is well-known for its colorful and woven *tikog*-based products and handicrafts most especially the multi-purpose mats called *banig* which may in turn be used as a material for the production and creation of other products.

The weaving of *Tikog*, a special reed plant, into *Banig* is a century-old practice which has been passed down from generation to generation. It is of great significance to the history and culture of Samar and its people, more so in Basey town wherein the same has developed into a flourishing household industry and became a prime source of livelihood, most especially among women weavers. Basey's *tikog* and *banig* products have garnered great market attention not only within the country but also worldwide.

However, the growth of the industry has stagnated primarily due to the lasting effects of Super Typhoon *Yolanda (Haiyan)* which struck the region on December 2013. Basey was one of the most heavily affected areas by the typhoon which destroyed *tikog* from naturally growing as well as damaged most homes and work areas used for *banig* weaving. In spite of rehabilitation efforts undertaken by the local government as well as by various organizations, the lack of capital investment, lagging technology, lack of engagement from the youth, among others, all contribute in stifling the industry from reaching its full potential. It is then apparent that more funding and support is required in order to fully rehabilitate, develop and augment the industry into a commercially competitive endeavor for the purpose of providing greater economic upliftment for the people as well as to preserve its historic and cultural legacy.

Wherefore, there is a need to protect, develop and support the *tikog* industry through the creation of a Banig Subsidy Fund and Tikog Research

and Development Center as well as the recognition of Basey, Samar as the Banig Capital of the Philippines for the overall benefit of all stakeholders.

The early recognition and approval of this bill is respectfully and earnestly sought.



SHAREE ANN T. TAN
Second District, Samar

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"AN ACT DEVELOPING THE TIKOG INDUSTRY, CREATING FOR THEPURPOSE THE BANIG SUBSIDY FUND AND THE TIKOG RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER, AND DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF BASEY IN THE PROVINCE OF SAMAR AS THE BANIG CAPITAL OF THE PHILIPPINES"

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. - This Act shall be known as the "TIKOG DEVELOPMENT ACT."

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY. - It is the policy of the State to instill patriotism and nationalism among the people as well as to promote the preferential use of locally manufactured goods that utilize local resources, adopt measures that help make them competitive and thus generate wider employment and greater benefits to the country.

It is likewise the policy of the State to promote and accelerate the development and growth of the Province of Samar, within the context of national policies for economic, social, and cultural well-being.

SECTION 3. CREATION OF THE TIKOG RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER.- Within a year from the approval of this Act, there shall be created a Tikog Research and Development Center in the Province of Samar attached to the Samar State University in Catbalogan City.

SECTION 4. FUNCTIONS OF THE TIKOG RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER.-The Tikog Research and Development Center shall perform the following functions:

- A. Undertake and conduct researches and technical studies on the development, production, management, and marketing of Tikog, Tikog and Banig products and its other by-products;
- B. Publish research studies, papers, articles, and other works or writings relating to Tikog and Banig research and development with the end goal of benefitting farmers, weavers, traders and other stakeholders;
- C. Train faculty members and other research personnel who will undertake research and development work on Tikog, Banig and its other by-products;
- D. Formulate a Tikog and Banig Development Roadmap/Program;
- E. Formulate and develop innovations in Tikog and Banig production and development as well as provide for the transfer and improvement of appropriate technologies and techniques;
- F. Provide technical support and assistance for sustainable Tikog and Banig production and development activities as well as promote and provide adequate training to farmers and individuals and other stakeholders engaged in Tikog and Banig propagation, production, processing and distribution in the Province of Samar;
- G. Provide and develop marketing tools and intellectual property protection framework for Tikog, Tikog and Banig products and its other by-products;
- H. Establish standards in grading, sampling and inspection, tests and analysis, specifications, packaging, preservation, conservation and transportation of Tikog, Tikog and Banig products and its other by-products;
- I. Assist and coordinate with the Department of Trade and Industry and other concerned government agencies for the participation of Tikog and Banig farmers, weavers, traders and exporters in local and international conferences, trade fairs, expositions and exhibits;
- J. Assist and coordinate with the Department of Education and other concerned government agencies in developing and implementing a Banig Weaving Program in the curriculum of select Senior High Schools in the Province of Samar;

- K. Coordinate with the local government units as well as concerned government agencies and offices to consolidate all policies, programs and projects relating to Tikog and Banig research and development; and,
- L. Perform such other functions and duties necessary or incidental to the promotion and development of the Tikog and Banig Industry and in the accomplishment of the goals and purposes of this Act.

SECTION 5. BANIG SUBSIDY FUND.- A Banig Subsidy Fund shall be established to financially support and provide capital development to Banig production, weaving, trading, skills training and such other activities related and incidental thereof.

SECTION 6. BANIG CAPITAL OF THE PHILIPPINES. - Pursuant to abovementioned public policy, the Municipality of Basey, Samar is hereby declared or granted the official designation as the Banig Capital of the Philippines.

SECTION 7. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS.-The Department of Agriculture (DA) and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in collaboration with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and Samar State University, shall formulate and prescribe the necessary implementing rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 8. APPROPRIATIONS.- For the initial implementation of this Act, an amount of TWENTY MILLION PESOS (P20,000,000.00) shall be provided from the General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Fund.

The amount to be appropriated shall be used primarily for development of the Tikog industry, the Banig Subsidy Fund as well as to support the operation of the Tikog Research and Development Center.

SECTION 9. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. - If any part of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remaining parts not affected thereby shall continue to be valid and operational.

SECTION 10. REPEALING CLAUSE. - All laws, decrees, orders, circulars, rules or regulations and other issuances which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 11. EFFECTIVITY. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette or at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,