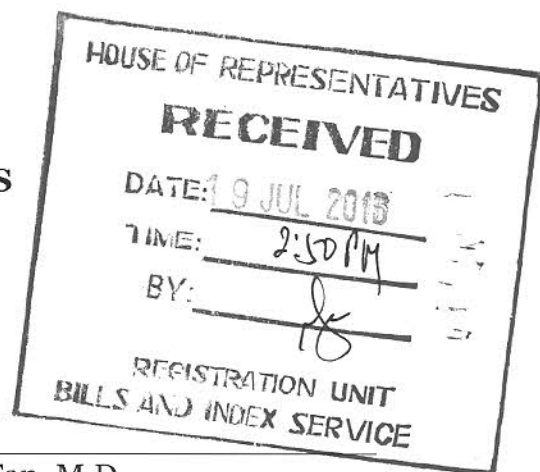


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1755



Introduced by: Hon. Angelina "Helen" D.L. Tan, M.D.

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF COCO COIR TUFTING PLANT FACILITY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ALABAT, PROVINCE OF QUEZON AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Considered as the "golden fiber", "bunot" or coco coir gives hope and holds so much promise for countless coconut farmers in the country. Its many uses such as planting medium additive, insulator, carpet, car seat stuffing, mat upholstery cushion, rope and cordage, fishing net, flooring material, filtration pads, mattress fiber, pot liner, brush, and coco nets for erosion control among many others have fostered its high export demand.


In 2011, there was a 39.15% increase in the quantity of coco coir exports from 4.43 million kilograms worth US\$974,586 in 2010 to 6.16 million kilograms worth US\$2.01 million. As a result, the government aims to make heavy investments to further develop the coconut industry and provide countryside development and employment.

Along these lines, this measure seeks to provide the construction of a coco coir tufting plant facility in the Municipality of Alabat, Province of Quezon for the processing of coco coir fibers into exportable finished products.

Quezon is one of the biggest coconut-producing provinces in the country and this initiative will help raise coconut farm incomes and strengthen small coconut farmer groups or small medium entrepreneurs in the province, particularly in the Municipality of Alabat, through the provision of essential support facilities towards sustainable livelihood program.

The construction of a coco coir tufting plant facility would help in accelerating rural development by providing coconut farmers an opportunity for income-generating and value-adding processes and would benefit the coconut industry in meeting and sustain the increasing domestic and export demands for twines, geotextiles nets and other coir products.

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


ANGELINA "HELEN" D.L. TAN, M.D.
4th District, Quezon

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

SECTION 1. There shall be established, under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture (DA), a coco coir tufting plant facility for the processing of coco coir fibers into exportable finished products such as mats, ropes, twines and other coir products in the Municipality of Alabat, Province of Quezon

SEC. 2. The Philippine Coconut Authority, in consultation with the Department of Trade and Industry, shall draw up a business plan that will include a detailed production study, market study, financial study and management study to ensure the viability and feasibility of the project.

SEC. 3. The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department's programs the construction of the coco coir tufting plant facility in the Municipality of Alabat, Province of Quezon, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The local government unit concerned shall set aside from any available local revenue an amount deemed appropriate for their operationalization.

SEC. 4. The DA shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act.

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,