

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 963**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
<b>RECEIVED</b>
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REGISTRATION UNIT BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE

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Introduced by HONORABLE LUIS RAYMUND F. VILLAFUERTE JR.  
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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Handloom weaving is an ancestral practice which existed for centuries and has continued to gain popularity.

Weaving was originally used, with the aid of a loom to make cloth. And it has since been applied to the making of matting and braids. Special looms were also designed for tapestry weaving, and end products of which are very expensive items.

With patience and skill, exquisite fabrics could be spun and woven through handloom equipment, using natural fibers. With the availability of threads and yarns from synthetic fibers, looms have also been used with synthetic fiber materials, with remarkable success.

Because handloom weaving has very great economic potential which has been tested for countless years, its promotion as a livelihood project for our rural folk must perforce receive continuing government encouragement.

Hand loomed products have also become works of art to the extent that they reflect traditional cultural patterns and native ingenuity. Some outputs of hand loomed artistry have even become collectors' items.

In many parts of the country, handloom weaving is very prevalent, although they remain crude. With proper government assistance through the establishment of handloom weaving training centers, the art and trade of handloom weaving could be made more efficient through the introduction of new methods and techniques. Our country could also learn from the practices of other countries in the Asia-Pacific

Region and from Europe. In North America, the art of handloom weaving is reportedly being revived.

The market of hand loomed products continues to expand and grow as interest is renewed on indigenous patterns as well as more modern ones.

As an economic undertaking and art medium, handloom weaving could spread. Productivity could, however, be improved only through sustained training programs, where more efficient and practical methods in the use of materials, designs and weaving techniques are applied. While we may have evolved our own native approaches to weaving, we certainly could upgrade our skills from studying the experiences of other countries and this could be done if we establish appropriate training centers in various parts of the country, where weaving is already part of the inherent inclinations of people as evidenced by the existence of weaving as a business and trade.

This bill seeks therefore to create, with national government assistance, a Handloom Weaving Training Center in the Municipality of Minalabac, Province of Camarines Sur.

Early approval of this bill, which hopes to stimulate livelihood activities as an element of our economic recovery program, is most earnestly urged.



**LUIS RAYMUND F. VILLAFUERTE JR.**

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**AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A HANDLOOM WEAVING TRAINING CENTER FOR NATURAL AND SYNTHETIC FIBERS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MINALABAC, PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

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

**SECTION 1.** There shall be established in the Municipality of Minalabac, Province of Camarines Sur, a Handloom Weaving Training Center.

**SECTION 2.** The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), in consultation with the Philippine Textile Research Institute (PTRI), is hereby authorized to construct the facilities of the Center, to acquire and install the necessary equipments or paraphernalia and to take such steps as may be necessary to implement the intents and purposes of this Act.

The weaving capability of the Center shall be upgraded from time to time to enable the trainees to avail of the emerging new techniques and methods for weaving through handlooms, and if warranted by the shifting demands in the marketplace, to avail of the small and medium scale semi-automatic weaving machinery appropriate thereto.

**SECTION 3.** The amount of Two Million (P2,000,000.00) Pesos is hereby authorized to be appropriated for the implementation of this Act, chargeable to the annual appropriations of the TESDA, or from such other funds as this Authority could provide from other sources available to it. Thereafter, such sums as may be

necessary for the operation, upkeep and maintenance of the Handloom Weaving Training Center shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act as part of the budget of the TESDA.

Counterpart funding may also be sought from the Provincial Government of Camarines Sur under such memorandum agreement as may be entered into in connection with the operation and management of the Handloom Weaving Training Center.

**SECTION 4.** This Act shall take immediate effect upon its approval.

Approved,