AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND PROTECTION OF THE PHILIPPINE HANDLOOM WEAVING INDUSTRY

Explanatory Note

Textiles and garments remain to be the third commodity cluster responsible for the US$ 2.14B in exports in 2012. In this sector, handloom weaving is one of the most time-honored cottage industries in the Philippines and a resource for rural employment and income. The industry has a considerable role in rural development as well as a great source of cultural pride and national identity.

However, the industry faces some inherent problems, including globalization, the high price of raw materials, marketing issues, unfair competition, minimal product diversification, disorganized artisan agencies, and the lack of government support.

Economic challenges and frayed mainstream market enthusiasm have tucked the handloom weaving industry to the shelves of vanishing Filipino traditions and perhaps to the brink of extinction.

The Philippine Handloom Weaving Industry Development Act seeks to revive the trade and empower weavers to be able to rise above the competitive global market and be able to grow their businesses in a self-reliant matter. These goals can be realized by
creating a framework and roadmap that will synergize the various schemes and programs of other departments and agencies to optimize resource utilisations that aid the livelihood of the handloom weaving industry. This will give the weavers, artisans that safeguard the nation's cultural heritage, a better quality of life.

This measure aims to preserve and further develop this century-old tradition. This industry can only flourish when there is guaranteed concrete and long-term economic benefits for the weavers and their families. This bill seeks to:

1. Promote local trade, celebrate Filipino culture, and give weavers economic and financial viability;


3. The Council will create the National Handloom Weaving Industry Development Policy which will generate a roadmap for the industry, boost innovations, lend technical support, give intellectual property security, and promote neo-ethnic Philippine textiles.

4. Appropriate ten million pesos (Php10,000,000.00) from the National Treasury to fund the endeavor of the Council.

In the present economic climate in which businesses depend on foreign capital and know-how, the handloom industry presents a sustainable model of economic activity that is not dependent on energy, has low capital costs, and celebrates the extensive
skill base of Filipino artistry. For these reasons, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

LOREN LEGARDA
AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND PROTECTION OF THE PHILIPPINE HANDLOOM WEAVING INDUSTRY

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 "Philippine Handloom Weaving Industry Development Act of 2019."

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. — It is the policy of the State to instill patriotism and nationalism among the people, especially in education system, who shall at all times be loyal to the Republic and the Filipino people, promote the preferential use of locally manufactured goods that utilize local resources and technologies, celebrate the culture and heritage of the country through the adoption of measures to elevate its value and prestige and thus generate wider employment and inclusive greater growth for the country by preserving and nurturing handloom weaving activities thus in turn and nurtures the textile culture and heritage of our people.

Sec. 3. Definition of Terms.

(A) Handloom is a device used in weaving fabrics by holding the warp threads under tension to facilitate the interweaving of the weft threads;

(B) Handloom-woven fabric is woven using a handloom;
(C) Handloom weaving industry is composed of the interrelated and interconnected component supply chain realizing the production of textiles through the handloom; and,

(D) Neo-ethnic Philippines textiles are made of or contain 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. Establishment of the National Handloom Weaving Development Council. The National Handloom Weaving Development Council shall be composed of the following:

(A) Head of the Philippine Textile Research Institute of the Department of Science and Technology as Chair of the Council;

(B) Head of the Garments and Textile Industry Development Office of the Department of Trade and Industry as Co-Chair;

(C) Head of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts as Member;

(D) Head of the National Commission on Indigenous People as Member;

(E) Head of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, Office of the President as Member;

(F) Head of the Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority of the Department of Agriculture as Member; and,

(G) Representative of the handloom weaving industry association as Member.

Sec. 5. The National Handloom Weaving Industry Development Policy. The Council shall formulate one (1) year after it is created, the National Handloom Weaving Industry Development Policy. This shall include, but not limited to, the following:
(A) Formulation of the Handloom Weaving Industry Roadmap;
(B) Innovations on handloom design and engineering;
(C) Technical support mechanism for sustainable handloom 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 textiles; and,
(G) Development of Textile-related Technical and Skills and Vocational
Education and Training.

The Council shall implement and monitor the measures to enable the Policy.

Sec. 6. Appropriations. - The amount of ten million pesos (P10,000,000.00) 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. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within sixty (60) days from the
effectivity of this Act, the Director of the Philippine Textile Research Institute of the
Department of Science and Technology, in coordination with the Garment and Textile
Industry Development Office of the Department of Trade and Industry, the National
Commission on Culture and the Arts, the Technical Education and Skills Development
Authority, the Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority of the Department of
Agriculture, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations of this Act.

Sec. 8. Separability Clause. - If any provision or part thereof is held invalid or
unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall
remain valid and subsisting.

Sec. 9. Repealing Clause. - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or
inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended
accordingly.
Sec. 10. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved ,