Introduced by

A RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE/S TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9242, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINE TROPICAL FABRICS LAW, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF FORMULATING AMENDATORY POLICY MEASURES AND PROVIDING SUFFICIENT BUDGETARY ALLOCATION TO ENSURE ITS EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE WORKERS AND STAKEHOLDERS OF THE TROPICAL FABRIC INDUSTRY AND ALIGNED INDUSTRIES

WHEREAS, Republic Act 9242, otherwise known as the Philippine Tropical Fabrics Law, declares it as the policy of the State to instill patriotism and nationalism among the people, especially public officials and employees, 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, adopt measures that help make them competitive and thus generate wider employment and greater benefits to the country;
WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9242 prescribes the use of tropical fabrics, containing natural fibers produced, spun, woven or knitted and finished in the Philippines, as material for uniforms of all government officials and employees, and for such other purposes which require the use of fabrics in government offices and functions;

WHEREAS, the strengthening of the tropical fabrics industry will not only promote sustainable development and preserve the art of weaving, but will also generate employment in the rural areas and sustain growth in the agriculture sector;

WHEREAS, after more than sixteen (16) years since its approval into law, its full potential has not yet been realized because of several challenges such as the lack of local manufacturers who can produce the fibers to fabric, the unavailability of handlooms and weaving technology, and, ultimately, the need to sustain production capability in order to meet market demands;

WHEREAS, the law provides that the amount necessary for the continued implementation of the Act - from the production of plant fibers, to the conduct of research and improvement, and to the allocation of needed materials for fabrication - shall be included in the General Appropriations Act (GAA);

WHEREAS, in previous years, the augmentations in the budget of specific programs related to RA 9242 were provided for the planting of cotton and establishment of weaving centers under the Philippine Fiber Development Authority (Philfida), for the assistance to artisans through the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), for technical support through the Shared Service Facility of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and the Philippine Textile Research Institute (PTRI), among others. It is imperative to look into the utilization of funds by the concerned government agencies tasked to implement such programs and projects;

WHEREAS, it is stated in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the law that the Civil Service Commission shall monitor and evaluate the implementation of the law, in coordination with the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Philippine Textile Research Institute (PTRI) and submit annual reports to the Civil Service Committee of both houses of Congress on or before the end of the December every year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the appropriate committee/s to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the implementation of Republic Act No. 9242, otherwise known as the Philippine Tropical Fabrics Law, with the end in view of formulating amendatory policy measures and providing sufficient budgetary allocation to ensure its effective implementation for the benefit of the workers and stakeholders of the tropical fabric industry and aligned industries.

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