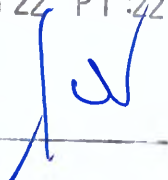


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

23 AUG 22 P 1 :22

RECEIVED BY: 

SENATE

S.B. No. 2417

Introduced by **SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA**

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING AN AQUACULTURE FEED MILL PLANT IN
BARANGAY BAHIT, MUNICIPALITY OF PANAY, PROVINCE OF
CAPIZ AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Philippines is ranked 11th in the world in terms of aquaculture production, contributing 1.01% to the total global production. The total value of the country's aquaculture production including fish, crustaceans, and mollusks is US\$1.89 billion.¹

In 2020, 233,725 or 11% of the total registered fisherfolk in the country depend on aquaculture for their livelihood. Among the fisheries sub-sectors, it contributes the largest at 52.79% and 41.82% of the country's total fisheries production and production value, respectively.²

Nevertheless, the sector is not without issues. The high cost of production remains a big issue for fish farmers who grapple with the increasing cost of feeds, which is 50-70% of the production cost of aquaculture. According to the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center-Aquaculture Division (SEAFDEC-AQD), commercial feeds cost P33.00-35.00 per kilogram for milkfish and P32.00-34.00 per kilogram for tilapia, and developing efficient and sustainable feeds could reduce the price by P6.00-10.00 per kilogram.³

Hence, this measure seeks to establish an aquaculture feed mill plant in Capiz, also known as the "Seafood Capital of the Philippines." The province is blessed with

¹ BFAR. Philippine Fisheries Profile 2020. Available at <https://www.bfar.da.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/2020-Fisheries-Profile-Final.pdf>. Accessed on 16 August 2023.

² *Ibid.*

³ Department of Agriculture. Aquafeed project develops cost-effective feeds for milkfish, tilapia. 14 June 2022. Available at <https://www.da.gov.ph/aquafeed-project-develops-cost-effective-feeds-for-milkfish-tilapia/>. Accessed on 16 August 2023.

a long coastline and a wide expanse of swampy lands easily converted into fishponds. It has one of the richest fishing grounds in the country and is a major contributor to the fisheries sector. Establishing an aquaculture feed mill plant in the province will help local fish farmers improve their production to meet growing demands, and provide cheap and continuous supply of nutrient-rich feed and feed ingredients through the development of new methods and technologies that are suitable to the local condition. All these are aimed towards achieving sustainable aquaculture production for the country.

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



JOEL VILLANUEVA, P

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CAPIZ AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1.** There shall be established, under the supervision of the Bureau of
2 Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Department of Agriculture (BFAR-DA), an
3 aquaculture feed mill plant in Barangay Bahit, Municipality of Panay, Province of
4 Capiz.

5
6 **SEC. 2.** Upon the effectivity of this Act, the BFAR-DA shall prepare a project study
7 or proposal detailing the mechanics for the establishment of an aquaculture feed mill.
8

9 **SEC. 3.** Within five (5) years after the establishment of the aquaculture feed mill
10 plant, the BFAR-DA shall, through a Memorandum of Agreement with the Local
11 Government of the Municipality of Panay, constitute and convene a Management
12 Board which shall be the policymaking body of the aquaculture feed mill plant. The
13 Management Board shall be composed of five (5) members consisting of the following:
14

- 15 a) One (1) representative from the Local Government Unit of the Municipality of
16 Panay;
17 b) One (1) representative from the Panay Aqua Farmers Consumer Cooperative
18 (PAFCC);
19 c) One (1) representative from the Department of Science and Technology (DOST);
20 d) One (1) representative from the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI); and
21 e) One (1) representative from the Capiz State University
22

23 The members of the Management Board shall serve for a term of five (5) years.
24

1 **SEC. 4.** The BFAR shall implement a training and phasing-in program for local
2 government personnel and the members of the Management Board on the
3 management and operation of the aquaculture feed mill plant.
4

5 The BFAR-DA shall, in coordination with the Southeast Asian Fisheries
6 Development Center-Aquaculture Department (SEAFDEC/AQD) and the
7 Management Board, conduct continuing research and experimentation on the
8 development of the aquaculture feeds, especially as they apply to local conditions, to
9 discover new methods and technologies on aquaculture as well as the production of
10 feeds. They shall develop an education and training program, in coordination with the
11 Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), to educate the
12 marginal fisherfolk on these new methods and technologies.
13

14 **SEC. 5.** The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department's programs
15 the conduct of a full-scale feasibility study and the consequent establishment of the
16 aquaculture feed mill plant in Barangay Bahit, Municipality of Panay, Province of Capiz,
17 the funding of which shall be included in the General Appropriations Act. The local
18 government unit concerned shall set aside funds from any available local revenue in
19 an amount deemed appropriate for the operationalization of the aquaculture feed mill
20 plant.
21

22 **SEC. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days from
23 the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall issue the rules and
24 regulations on the supervision, operation, monitoring, and the eventual transfer of the
25 management of the aquaculture feed mill plant to the local government of the
26 Municipality of Panay.
27

28 **SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or
29 unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and
3 0 effect.
31

3 2 **SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive issuances, and rules
3 3 and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or
3 4 modified accordingly.
3 5

3 6 **SEC. 9. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
3 7 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,