

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4278



Introduced by Representative Hon. Christopher “Toff” V.P. de Venecia

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 2012.¹ 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

¹ <https://textileworldasia.com/textile-world-asia/country-profiles/2013/03/the-philippines-textile-and-apparel-industry-on-the-mend/>

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 utilizations 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 are 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;
2. Establish a National Handloom Weaving Department Council composed of representatives from the National Commission on Indigenous People, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, National Commission for Culture and the Arts, Philippine Creative Industry Development Council, and Garments and Textile Industry Development Office of the Department of Trade and Industry. The representative from the Philippine Textile Research Institute of the Department of Science and Technology will serve as Chair of the Council;
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; and
4. Appropriate Ten Million Pesos (Php 10,000,000.00) 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Toff/Venecia". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

HON. CHRISTOPHER "TOFF" V.P. VENECIA

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4278

Introduced by Representative Hon. Christopher “Toff” V.P. de Venecia

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 2022.*"

Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to instill patriotism and nationalism among the people, especially in the 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.* - For purposes of this Act, the following terms are hereby defined as follows:

- a. *Handloom* - refers to 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* - refers to fabric woven using a handloom

- c. *Handloom weaving industry* - composed of the interrelated and interconnected component supply chain realizing the production of textiles through the handloom
- d. *Neo-ethnic Philippines textiles* - refers to textiles made of or containing 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;
- g. Head of the Philippine Creative Industry Development Council;
- h. The Representative of the Traditional and Cultural Expressions Domain of the Philippine Creative Industries Development Council as Member;
- i. Head of the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines as Member; and
- j. A representative of an accredited 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 in 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;
- g. Development of a database of Philippine textiles;
- h. Development of Textile-related Technical and Skills and Vocational Programs; and
- i. Education and Training.

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

Sec. 6. *Appropriations.* - The amount of Ten Million Pesos (Php 10,000,000.00) 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, the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines,

and the Philippine Creative Industries Development Council 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 a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,