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SENATE
P.S. Res 1459

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Poe

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRADE, COMMERCE AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP TO CONDUCT A STUDY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE MECHANISMS TO STRENGTHEN THE PHILIPPINE TEXTILES AND WEAVING SECTORS INCLUDING THE PROMOTION OF HERITAGE FABRICS LIKE T'NALAK, PIFIA, HABLON, INABU, SINAMAY AND ABEL ILOKO AIMED AT GLOBALIZING AND PROMOTING THE COMPETITIVENESS OF THE SAID INDUSTRIES

WHEREAS, the 1987 Philippine Constitution (in Article II, General Principles and State Policies) provides the following provisions to help and to promote indigenous communities:

- Section 21. The State shall promote comprehensive rural development and agrarian reform;
- Section 22. The State recognizes and promotes the rights of indigenous cultural communities within the framework of national unity and development;
- Section 23. The State shall encourage non-governmental, community-based, or sectoral organizations that promote the welfare of the nation;

WHEREAS, weaving is an art that has been performed in the Philippines since pre-colonial times and that each ethnic group has its own particular kind of textile, motifs, and method of production like the people of the Cordilleras who weave blankets and apparel with a backstrap loom, the T'boli first tie-dye abaca threads in earth tones before weaving them into a fabric called t'nalak and that for many ethnic groups, weaving is more than a tradition as it is a religious ritual¹;

WHEREAS, in the latter part of the Spanish era, the people of Miag-ao began developing a textile, which became known as hablon, woven from pifia and jusi fibers, cotton, and silk and later man-made fibers²;

WHEREAS, the Senate of the Philippines has a champion in indigenous weaving in the person of Senator Loren Legarda and has consistently promoted traditional/indigenous fabrics and has sponsored various activities/expositions on Filipino products made from original and traditional textiles such as the Abel Iloko from Ilocos, Pifia and Raffia from Aklan, Hablon from Iloilo, Abaca and Sinamay from Bicol and the Visayas, T'nalak from the the T'boli, Inabal from the Bagobo, Inabu to the Manobo, Mabuel to the B'laan, and Habulan to the Higaonon, all found in Mindanao, are a testament to Filipino ingenuity and creativity³;

¹ En.wikipilipinas.org/index.php/Philippine Textile Weaving

² Ibid, wikipilipinas

³ As cited in: <http://www.tesoros.ph/wcaving.html> 1/31/11 3:00 PM

WHEREAS, the Philippines' textile industry comprised of four key sectors: production of yarn from fibres (spinning); production of fabric from yarn (weaving, circular knitting, warp knitting and raschel); decoration of fabrics (dyeing, printing and finishing); and production of fabric directly from fibre (non-woven fabrics);

WHEREAS, although traditional weaving technology, is found all over the country, the textile weaving industry remains to be a cottage business whose products are in need of development assistance in the form of product design, new production machinery and weaving technology; the adoption of a system to facilitate technology transfer and marketing methodologies must also be set in place to aid the weavers in coming up with competitive products;

WHEREAS, these entrepreneurs require additional capitalization in order to enhance the market potential of their products; assistance in the form of bank referrals, including assistance on loan packages for small and medium scale enterprises and investment matching must be provided as well as making available information on engaging in joint venture projects and partnerships in order to improve the competitiveness of the industry; '

WHEREAS, the pattern, style and the weaving and coloring methodology of traditional textiles are unique testaments to the indigenous genius of the Filipino, they form a rich cultural heritage which must be preserved through the institution of legal frameworks for the protection of traditional knowledge in the country;

WHEREAS, the provisions under Republic Act 8371 otherwise known as the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act, Republic Act No., 8293, or the Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines, the relevant laws on Patent, Trademarks, Copyright and other economic rights are inadequate as they fail to recognize the unique concepts of traditional ownership of community in rights and responsibilities as well as the indigenous peoples concept of creation and invention;

WHEREAS, there must be a sincere and adequate move to encourage receptiveness and involvement of local weaving industries in order to strengthen this age-old tradition by encouraging their growth, and, competitiveness through financial programs and the adoption of a legislative framework to accord to them protection.³

NOW, WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines to recommend and urge the Committee on Trade and Commerce to conduct a study, in aid of legislation, on the mechanisms to strengthen the Philippine textiles and weaving sectors including the promotion of heritage fabrics like T'nalak, Pifia, Hablon, Inabu, Sinamay and Abel Iloko aimed at globalizing and promoting the competitiveness of the said industries.

Adopted,


GRACE POE

³ As cited in: http://rO.unctad.org/trade_env/docs/philippines.pdf 1/31/11 3:00PM