FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES First Regular Session

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SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 41

HECEIVED BY

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND COMMERCE AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES IN THE SENATE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE NEED TO PROVIDE INCENTIVES AND BENEFITS TO OUR LOCAL TEXTILE MANUFACTURERS AND WEAVING MILLS PRODUCING INDIGENOUS TROPICAL FABRIC MATERIALS WITH END IN VIEW OF REVITALIZING THIS INDUSTRY AND PROVIDING THE NECESSARY SUPPORT MECHANISMS AND INCENTIVES FOR THEM TO BECOME COMPETITIVE IN THE LOCAL AND GLOBAL MARKET.

WHEREAS, the Republic Act No. 9242, otherwise known as "An Act Prescribing the Use of the Philippine Tropical Fabrics for Uniforms of Public Officials and Employees" was enacted into law to instill patriotism and nationalism among the people, especially public officials and employees, and to promote the preferential use of locally manufactured goods that utilizes local resources and adopt measures that help make the local textile industry become more competitive thus generate wider employment to the country;

WHEREAS, the current deplorable state of the textile industry in the country should be studied and be given immediate remedial policies by the government in order to revive this particular industry. The shift in buyer preferences favoring natural and indigenous tropical fabrics and dyes, a more diversified export market, and a renewed local interest in natural indigenous textile inputs may provide the needed push for the renaissance of the dying Philippine textile industry;

WHEREAS, the T'nalak, Inaul, Romblon Pandan, Kamuyot, and Balud are among the many indigenous Philippine fabrics that are gaining worldwide recognition because of its exotic shades, characteristics and origins. However, the limited production of these textiles, meaning that it takes 6 months to weave a 5-meter long 24-inch wide of T'nalak cloth, prevents it from being further showcased in the international market and fashion runways that clamor for more of this Filipino ingenuity;

WHEREAS, the changing values of the younger generations of our ethnic tribes that weave these fabrics also threaten the ethnic art of Filipino weaving;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to undertake technological program and projects that will contribute to the improvement, invention and innovation of machinery, equipment, processes and production methods of indigenous Philippine tropical fabrics in the country in order to leapfrog this industry towards global competitiveness;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to enact legislations that would provide incentives and benefits to manufacturers and weaving mills of locally-made indigenous Philippine tropical fabrics in order to revitalize and encourage the growth, development and competitiveness of this industry and promote local employment;

WHEREAS, there is a need to undertake strategic periodic marketing and economic studies that will assist the full growth of the local tropical fabrics industry in the country;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to allocate funds for the promotion, research and development (R&D), and modernization of our textile industry, specifically the indigenous Philippine fabrics, thus enabling the efficient use of local resources;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to support the Philippine local indigenous tropical fabrics industry in order to achieve global excellence that will provide for the attainment of world niche for Philippine indigenous tropical fabrics through judicious utilization of fibrous materials and auxiliaries from indigenous resources and reach high levels of productivity of world-class quality products.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Senate of the Philippines direct the direct the Senate Committee on Trade and Commerce and other appropriate Committees in the Senate to conduct an inquiry, In Aid of Legislation, into the need to provide incentives and benefits to our local textile manufacturers and weaving mills producing indigenous tropical fabric materials with end in view of revitalizing this industry and providing the necessary support mechanisms and incentives for them to become competitive in the local and global market.

Adopted,

MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID Senator