

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1285



Introduced by Representative **MARLYN L. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS**

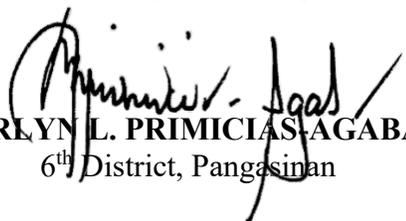
EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish a multi-purpose farm for the breeding, spawning, and hatchery of catfish, tilapia, mudfish, eel, and other fresh water fishes which are viable in mud ponds and concrete tanks in the Municipality of Asingan, Province of Pangasinan.

People in the Municipality of Asingan generally rely on agriculture for their livelihood, particularly the cultivation of rice, corn, and assorted vegetables. As such, the supply of fish and other aquatic resources for their important dietary needs is far from ideal resulting in its price becoming quite prohibitive for many of its people. Given this situation, the establishment of the above-mentioned multi-purpose fishery farm in the Municipality of Asingan, Province of Pangasinan will greatly benefit its people. Its creation will timely meet the increasing demand of people in the said Municipality for affordable fish. It will also provide, for its people, a stable source of fry or fingerlings as well as reliable technical expertise for the setting up, management, and operation of small-scale fish farms; thereby, ultimately leading up to the empowerment of many of its people and the creation of secondary income streams for them which will augment their incomes from agriculture. Moreover, it will empower small-scale fish farmers and strengthen local aquaculture, which leads to inclusive rural development, contributes to food security, and aligns with Section 7, Article XIII, of the 1987 Constitution, which mandates the State to protect the rights of subsistence fishermen, especially of local communities, to the preferential use of local marine and fishing resources, both inland and offshore.

This proposed bill, although local in its scope and application, will eventually redound to nation-building, as it will provide a viable source of livelihood for people in the rural areas of Asingan, and eradicate poverty subsisting therein, particularly in far-lung communities. Moreover, it will also help in the rejuvenation of the fish industry.

In view thereof, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


MARLYN L. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS
6th District, Pangasinan

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AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTI-PURPOSE FARM FOR THE BREEDING, SPAWNING, AND HATCHERY OF CATFISH, TILAPIA, MUDFISH, EEL, AND OTHER FRESH WATER FISHES IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ASINGAN, PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN.

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

SECTION 1. There shall be established, under the supervision of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Department of Agriculture (BFAR-DA), a multi-purpose farm for the breeding, spawning, and hatchery of catfish, tilapia, mudfish, eel, and other fresh water fishes in the Municipality of Asingan, Province of Pangasinan.

SECTION 2. The BFAR-DA shall disseminate its technical knowledge and expertise on the culture of catfish, tilapia, mudfish, eel, and other fresh water fishes to the people in the Municipality of Asingan, Province of Pangasinan; and shall continuously conduct research and experimentation on the breeding, spawning, hatchery, and culture of these fish species with the aim of discovering new cost-effective methods and technologies, especially as they apply to local conditions.

SECTION 3. The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department's programs the establishment of the multi-purpose farm for the breeding, spawning, and hatchery of catfish, tilapia, mudfish, eel, and other fresh water fishes in the Municipality of Asingan, Province of Pangasinan, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. Further, the local government unit concerned shall set aside an amount deemed appropriate for the operation and maintenance of the said multi-purpose farm to be sourced from any of its available local revenue.

SECTION 4. The BFAR-DA shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.