



LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES OF THE PHILIPPINES (LMP)

ROMBLON CHAPTER

LMP RESOLUTION NO. 01 -2021

A RESOLUTION STRONGLY OPPOSING HOUSE BILL NO. 7853 AMENDING THE FISHERIES CODE OF 1998 TO EXPAND THE AREA OF OPERATIONS OF SMALL SCALE AND MEDIUM SCALE COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSELS WITHIN MUNICIPAL WATERS.

WHEREAS, the League of Municipalities of the Philippines- Romblon Chapter has been furnished a copy of House Bill No. 7853 introduced by Representative Pablo John F. Garcia with the title “An Act Amending Section 18 of Republic Act No. 8550 otherwise known as “The Fisheries Code of 1998”.

WHEREAS, the League opposes this bill because it is prejudicial to almost two (2) million marginalized fisherfolks including the constituents of the Province of Romblon wherein large number of its population relies on fishing as their means of living.

WHEREAS, based on the study made by United States Agency for International Development (USAid), seventy percent (70%) of fishing grounds in the country are currently overfished. Further, based on a recent catch study of the Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries, the Philippines revealed that catches in inshore fishing areas have been decreasing. Thus, permitting commercial vessels in municipal waters will further worsen the rapidly declining fish catch in municipal waters.

WHEREAS, increasing national catch by commercial fishing vessels would result in inequity of benefit distribution accruing to municipal and small scale fishers, contributing to increasing poverty.

WHEREAS, allowing commercial fishing in municipal waters would open these areas to the use of active fishing gears which could damage the nearby coral reefs. Moreover, based on the study of coastal fisheries, municipal fishers catch fish in a more sustainable way compared to commercial fishers because they use efficient traditional fishing gears with minimal impact to coral reefs. Thus, municipal waters with their critical marine habitats should be protected and spared from active and destructive fishing.

WHEREAS, this bill violates Article XIII, Section 7 of the Constitution which protects the right of subsistence of fishermen especially of local communities, to the preferential use of communal marine and fishing resources, both inland and offshore.

WHEREAS, there is no compelling reason to expand the operations of small and medium commercial fishing vessels to more areas of municipal waters than what is stated as an exception under the law.

WHEREFORE, on motion duly seconded, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved to STRONGLY OPPOSE the approval and promulgation of House Bill No. 7853 introduced by Representative Pablo John F. Garcia with the title "An Act Amending Section 18 of Republic Act No. 8550 otherwise known as "The Fisheries Code of 1998".

RESOLVED FURTHER, to forward copies of this Resolution to the Speaker of the House, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA), Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Congressman Eleandro Jesus F. Madrona, Governor Jose B. Riano and all other concerned for their respective information, guidance and proper legislation.

APPROVED.

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I HEREBY CERTIFY to the correctness of the foregoing resolution which was duly approved by the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP) - Romblon Chapter during its 1st Regular Session held at Bachawan, Romblon on February 8, 2021.



HON. LISETTE M. ARBOLEDA

LMP Secretary

Municipality of Looc

ATTESTED:

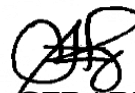


HON. ESTEBAN S.F. MADRONA

Executive Vice President

Municipality of San Agustin

APPROVED:



HON. GERARD S. MONTOJO

President

Municipality of Romblon