

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11401, August 22, 2019]

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FRESHWATER MULTISPECIES HATCHERY AND RESEARCH CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BALO-I, PROVINCE OF LANA DEL NORTE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives 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 freshwater multispecies hatchery and research center, to be known as the Lanao del Norte Freshwater Aquaculture Center in the Municipality of Balo-i, Province of Lanao del Norte.

SEC. 2. The Lanao del Norte Freshwater Auaculture Center and the BFAR-DA shall conduct continuing research and experimentation on the breeding and production of freshwater species, especially as they apply to local conditions, to discover new methods and technology that shall benefit the freshwater aquaculture industry.

SEC. 3. There shall be established a Local Advisory Council that shall provide direction for the Center and facilitate the exchange of information among the Center and the stakeholders. The Council shall be composed of the BFAR Director for Region 10 as Chairperson, the President of the Municipal Mayors League of Lanao del Norte, the Mayor of the Municipality of Balo-i, and three (3) representatives from the local fisheries sector to be appointed by the Governor as members.

SEC. 4. The Center shall disperse fry and fingerlings in public bodies of water in such intervals as may be recommended by the Local Advisory Council. It may also sell such fry and fingerlings to individual organized fish farmers ar prevailing market prices.

SEC. 5. The BFAR-DA shall transfer the management of the Center to the local government of the Municipality of Balo-i within two (2) years after its establishment through a memorandum of agreement. The BFAR-DA shall implement training and phasing-in program for local government personnel on the management and operation of the Center.

SEC. 6. The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department's program the establishment of the Lanao del Norte Freshwater Aquaculture Center in the Municipality of Balo-i, Province of Lanao del Norte, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The local government units concerned shall set aside funds from any available local revenue in an amount deemed appropriate for the operationalization of this Center.