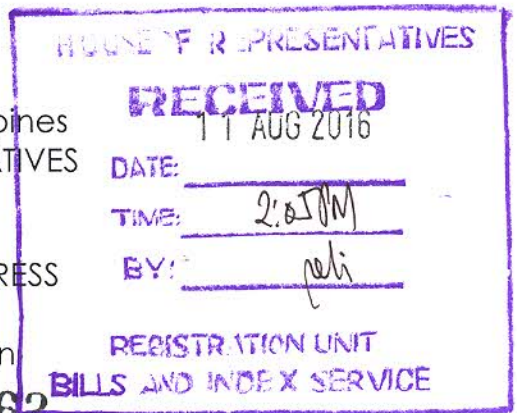


Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. **2862**



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Introduced by Rep. Delphine Gan Lee and Rep. Orestes T. Salon


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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Agri-Tourism is defined as an agricultural activity that endeavours to bring in visitors in places of production; be it places of cultivation of plants or development of animals. The concept is not only beneficial to the farmer and fisher folk concerned but also to the community. Agri-Tourism increases the economic traffic channelled into the area due to the increase of tourists and other attached personnel that comes with the development of the area. Agri-Tourism introduces a boost of economic activity with no significant cost to the producers vis-à-vis a potentially exponential increase in income.

This bill enables the government to support the endeavours and actions of the farmers and fisher folk and in doing so, seeks to improve the Philippine Agri-Tourism sector by providing for a long-term legislative framework for its development.

  
**HON. DELPHINE GAN LEE**  
Representative, AGRI Party-List

  
**HON. ORESTES T. SALON**  
Representative, AGRI Party-List



1           SECTION 4. *Creation of the Position of Undersecretary for Agri-Tourism.* - There  
2 is hereby created in the Department of Agriculture the position of Undersecretary for Agri-  
3 Tourism, solely for the purpose of attending to the needs of the agri-tourism industry, to be  
4 appointed by the President. Such Undersecretary shall have the following functions:

5           (a) set policies and formulate standards for the effective, efficient and  
6 economical operations of the agri-tourism industry in accordance with the programs  
7 of the government;

8           (b) exercise supervision over all functions and activities of all offices and  
9 instrumentalities and other offices related to agri-tourism including its officers and  
10 personnel;

11           (c) establish, with the assistance of the director, such regional, provincial and  
12 other agri-tourism officers and personnel as may be necessary and appropriate and  
13 organize the internal structure of Bureau of Agri-Tourism in such manner as is  
14 necessary for the efficient and effective attainment of its objectives and purposes; and

15           (d) perform such other functions as may be necessary or proper to attain the  
16 objectives of this Act.

17           SECTION 5. *Creation of the Bureau of Agri-Tourism.* – The Bureau of Agri-  
18 Tourism (BAT) is hereby created with the following functions:

19           (a) prepare and implement a Comprehensive National Agri-Tourism Industry  
20 Development Plan;

21           (b) recommend to Congress and to the President the areas that are prime for agri-tourism  
22 but require infrastructure projects such as farm to market roads;

23           (c) provide for the registration and the issuance of identification cards to agri-tourism  
24 farmers;

25           (d) monitor and review agri-tourism agreements between Filipino citizens and  
26 foreigners who seek to invest in the agri-tourism sector;

27           (e) formulate and implement a Comprehensive Agri-Tourism Research and  
28 Development Program, such as, but not limited to, organic farming, sea farming, sea  
29 ranching, tropical/ornamental fish and seaweed culture, plantation tours, livestock and  
30 farm fieldtrips, aimed at increasing resource productivity, improving resource use  
31 efficiency, and ensuring the long-term sustainability of the country's agri-tourism  
32 program;

33           (f) establish and maintain a Comprehensive Agri-Tourism Information System;

- (g) provide extensive development support services in all aspects of agri-tourism creation and marketing;
- (h) provide advisory services and technical assistance on the improvement of the industry;
- (i) advise and coordinate with LGUs on the maintenance of proper development and maintenance in agri-tourism sites;
- (j) coordinate with LGUs and other concerned agencies for the establishment of productivity enhancing and market development programs in agri-tourism communities;
- (k) enforce all laws, formulate and enforce all rules and regulations governing the conservation and management of agri-tourism sites;
- (l) assist the LGUs in developing their technical capability in the development, management, regulation, conservation, and protection of agri-tourism sites;
- (m) perform such other related functions which shall promote the development, conservation, management, protection and utilization of agri-tourism sites.

SECTION 6. ***Composition of BAT.*** - As a line bureau, the BAT shall be headed by a Director and assisted by two (2) Assistant Directors who shall supervise the administrative and technical services of the bureau respectively. It shall establish regional, provincial and municipal offices as may be appropriate and necessary to carry out effectively and efficiently the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 7. ***Educational campaign at all levels.*** - The Department, the CHED, the Department of Education and the Philippine Information Agency shall launch and pursue a nationwide educational campaign to:

- (a) help realize the policies and implement the provisions of this Act;
- (b) promote agri-tourism and inform the public of new agri-tourist destinations; and
- (c) promote the principle of sustainable development;

SECTION 8. ***Infrastructure Support.*** - The Department in cooperation with concerned agencies shall:

- (a) prepare and implement a nationwide plan for the development of agri-tourism fishing ports and markets;

1 (b) prioritize the construction of farm-to-market roads linking the agri-tourism sites to  
2 markets, bus terminals, train stations, airports, coastal landing points and arterial  
3 roads/highways;

4 (c) establish and maintain quality laboratories in identified areas and prescribe the  
5 highest standards for the operation and maintenance of such agri-tourism sites;

6 (d) arrange and make representations with appropriate funding institutions to finance  
7 such facilities for the use of the agri-tourism cooperatives/associations;

8 (e) develop and strengthen marketing facilities and promote cooperative marketing  
9 systems; and

10 SECTION 9. ***Strict Compliance with Environmental Laws.*** – The utilization and  
11 development of all areas under this Act shall be regulated by the DENR pursuant to all laws  
12 and statutes on the utilization and protection of natural resources and the environment, and  
13 must strictly comply with the land use plan approved by the local government unit concerned  
14 and the requirements imposed by existing DENR rules, regulations, and other issuances,  
15 taking into consideration the sustainable use and development of the area.

16 SECTION 10. ***Incentives for Municipal and Small-Scale Agri-Tourism Businesses.***  
17 – Municipal and small-scale agri-tourism farmers shall be granted incentives which shall  
18 include, but are not limited to, the following:

19 (a) a capability-building program for targeted parties shall be developed by the  
20 Department to promote greater bankability and credit worthiness of municipal and  
21 small-scale agri-tourism farmers. Such program shall include organizing activities,  
22 technology transfer, and skills training related to agri-tourism, as well as credit  
23 management; and

24 (b) an information campaign shall be conducted to promote the capability  
25 building and credit programs. The campaign shall ensure greater information  
26 dissemination and accessibility to targeted agri-tourism farmers.

27 SECTION 11. ***Funding.*** – The amount of two hundred fifty million pesos  
28 (P250,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated for the initial year of this Act. Every year  
29 thereafter, Congress shall allocate an amount not less than thirty million pesos  
30 (P30,000,000.00) to be included in the budget of the Department for the implementation and  
31 continued expansion of this program.

1           SECTION 12. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Secretary shall adopt  
2 rules and regulation to implement the provisions of this Act within ninety (90) days from the  
3 date of effectivity of this Act.

4           SECTION 13. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act or the application of  
5 such provision to any person or circumstance is declared invalid, the remainder of the Act or  
6 the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected by  
7 such declaration.

8           SECTION 14. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,  
9 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or  
10 inconsistent with this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

11          SECTION 15. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after  
12 its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Adopted,