



Republic of the Philippines  
**House of Representatives**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**RECEIVED**

DATE: **12 JUL 2016**

TIME: **8:01 am**

BY: **[Signature]**

REGISTRATION UNIT  
BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE

House Bill No. **1392**

Introduced by **Honorable ERLPE JOHN "PING" M. AMANTE**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to consolidate all farm-to-market road (FMR) development programs of the government into one comprehensive, time-bound program that will ensure the completion of priority road infrastructure projects leading to key agricultural and fishery production areas all over the country.

Currently, the implementation of FMR projects is beset by various challenges. One of which is having a project identification and prioritization process that is largely dependent on proposals submitted by local government units – not on a strategic plan that could have laid down an efficient infrastructure network for the agriculture and fisheries sector. This is also the primary reason why FMR development programs become very prone to political interventions. Another disturbing observation is the piecemeal implementation of such projects that usually have limited impact to intended beneficiaries, with some even ending up as abandoned, unfinished roads.

The Agricultural Road Infrastructure (AGRI) Network Program aims to address two (2) main concerns regarding the implementation of FMR projects as illustrated above: (1) lack of a strategic plan, and (2) lack of funds. The proposed program shall strictly follow a ten (10) year Agricultural Road Infrastructure Network Plan – to be crafted through a nationwide consultation with various stakeholders – that will contain all priority road projects nationwide and shall be allocated a minimum of One Hundred Billion Pesos (P100,000,000,000.00) in its first five (5) years to ensure its immediate and timely implementation.

It is envisioned that after the implementation of the AGRI Network Program all key agricultural and fishery production areas will be efficiently linked to the market thus enhancing the productivity of our farmers and fisher folks and furthermore contributing to the government's goal of food security.

In view of the forgoing, I hereby request for the approval of this bill.

  
**ERLPE JOHN "PING" M. AMANTE**



Republic of the Philippines  
**House of Representatives**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1392

---

Introduced by **Honorable ERLPE JOHN "PING" M. AMANTE**

---

**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGRICULTURAL**  
**ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE (AGRI) NETWORK PROGRAM**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in session assembled:*

**SECTION 1.** *Short Title.* — This Act shall be known as the "**AGRI Network Act of 2016.**"

**SECTION 2.** *Declaration of Policy.* — The State shall develop a comprehensive national road network that will support key agricultural and fishery production areas to ensure that the transport of produce and goods will be efficient, cost-effective, and convenient with the aim of attaining food security and improving the lives of farmers and fisher folks.

**SECTION 3.** *Agricultural Road Infrastructure (AGRI) Network Plan.* — The Department of Agriculture (DA) shall submit to Congress and to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act a National Agricultural Road Infrastructure Network Plan, hereinafter referred to as the Plan, that will contain all priority road projects – to include repair, rehabilitation and construction – that shall connect key agricultural, livestock, and fishery production areas to national primary and secondary roads. High priority will be given to road projects that will connect multiple production areas and areas that are major producers of rice, corn, coconut, livestock – primarily cows, swine, and poultry – and seafood.

*Provided,* That the DA shall ensure that a nationwide consultation with various government agencies, local government units, farmer and fisher folk groups, private sector, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders will be conducted during the preparation of the Plan.

*Provided further,* That the Plan shall be reviewed and updated every three (3) years from the effectivity of this Act.

**SECTION 4.** *Implementation.* — The AGRI Network Program, which shall cover the implementation of the Plan and hereinafter referred to as the Program, shall be implemented within a period of ten (10) years.

The DA shall oversee and manage the Program and develop a system to monitor its implementation. The Department shall make periodic reports to the Congressional Oversight Committee on Agricultural Road Infrastructure Network Program.

The DPWH shall lead in the implementation of the road projects under the Program. The DPWH shall formulate a strategy to ensure the timely implementation of projects, such as, but not limited to the, clustering and geo-tagging of projects for cost efficiency in the procurement thereof and effective management and implementation of projects.

**SECTION 5.** *Appropriations.* — Annual appropriations for the Program shall include the amounts necessary to support the funding requirements of all road infrastructure projects included in the Plan.

The Program shall be based on a ceiling, for the first five (5) years, of One Hundred Billion Pesos (P100,000,000,000.00). *Provided,* That hereafter this amount may be increased commensurate to the increase in the Gross National Product (GNP).

**SECTION 6.** *Right of Way and Road Maintenance.* — All right-of-way issues including the payment to property owners shall be adequately addressed and settled by the concerned Local Government Unit (LGU) where the road project is located. The LGU shall also provide counterpart for the maintenance of the roads upon completion and turn-over.

**SECTION 7.** *Incorporation of Existing Farm-to-Market Road Projects.* — Continuing appropriations for all FMR projects being funded and implemented by the national government prior to the effectivity of this Act, except those funded under the Grassroots Participatory Budgeting (GPB) program or any other similar program, and are included in the Plan shall be considered part of the Program's appropriation as provided in Section 5.

New FMR programs and projects to be funded through foreign assistance after the effectivity of this Act are encouraged to be based on the Plan.

**SECTION 8.** *Congressional Oversight Committee.* — There is hereby created a Congressional Oversight Committee to monitor and oversee the implementation of the provisions of this Act. The Committee shall be composed of six (6) members from the Senate and six (6) members from the House of Representatives with the Chairpersons of Agriculture and Food of both houses as Joint Chairpersons. The five (5) members from each chamber shall be designated by the Senate President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives respectively. The minority shall have at least two (2) representatives from both chambers.

**SECTION 9.** *Sunset Review.* — As the need arises, or within ten (10) years after its effectivity, the Congressional Oversight Committee shall conduct a sunset review of this Act. The term "sunset review" shall mean a systematic evaluation of the accomplishments and impact of this Act, as well as the performance and organizational structure of its implementing agencies, for purposes of determining remedial legislations.

**SECTION 10.** *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — The Secretary of Agriculture shall issue rules and regulations as he/she may deem necessary for the implementation of this Act.

**SECTION 11.** *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 12.** *Separability Clause.* — If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected hereby shall remain valid and subsisting.

**SECTION 13.** *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

**Approved,**