

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

2030

HOUSE BILL NO. _____



Introduced by: **HON. "KUYA" JOSE ANTONIO R. SY-ALVARADO**

AN ACT
ENCOURAGING YOUTH SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR,
ESTABLISHING FOR THE PURPOSE A LINGKOD KABATAAN SA AGRIKULTURA
PROGRAM AND A LINGKOD KABATAAN SA AGRIKULTURA TRUST FUND,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES


EXPLANATORY NOTE

Enrolment in agriculture related courses are not so popular among the young generation despite the huge demand for food and farm products. Most farmers in our country today belong to the poor sector in our community and yet they are the one responsible for supplying food products that is generally sold to the market and consumed by a huge number of consumers. There is a need for the young generation to participate in the development of our agricultural sector.

This bill seeks to establish a Lingkod Kabataan sa Agrikultura scholarship program in agriculture business and other related industries. This scholarship program will entice young individuals to pursue agriculture industries by giving the qualified students financial assistance for tuition fees, cost of living allowances, and school materials.

The direct participation of the youth in the development of our agricultural industry is important in the development of our nation's economy.

Hence, this proposal is submitted for consideration.

"KUYA" JOSE ANTONIO R. SY-ALVARADO 
Representative
First District of Bulacan

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Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress Assembled:

ARTICLE I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. *Title* - This Act shall be known as the "Lingkod Kabataan sa Agrikultura Act".

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy* - The State shall give priority to education, science and technology to accelerate social progress and promote development. Towards this end, the government shall provide opportunities for all to obtain quality education and for this purpose, scholarships in Agriculture, Agri-Entrepreneurship, Forestry and Fisheries are hereby strengthened. It is also the policy of the State to develop graduates who will become competent agribusiness managers and entrepreneurs.

SEC. 3. *Objectives*. - The objectives of this Act are to:

- a) Increase youth participation in the Agricultural Sector,
- b) Provide opportunities to poor but deserving students to realize their potentials in agribusiness and entrepreneurships,
- c) Develop competency skills and knowledge of students in agricultural technologies and agribusiness,
- d) Increase food production;
- e) Commercialize proven viable technologies to increase food production and income of rural communities through the development of livelihoods and markets,
- f) Provide income to students while doing experiential learning and on-the-job training which form part of their degree programs,
- g) Link young farmer-students with Credit, financing, and marketing institutions, and
- h) Contribute to the alleviation of poverty.

SEC. 4. **Definition of Terms.** - For the purposes of this Act:

a) "Lingkod Kabataan sa Agrikultura Program" or "The Program" refers to the Scholarship program established by this Act which targets poor but deserving graduates of agricultural and fisheries tracks in senior high Schools and similarly situated students taking up agriculture and related courses in tertiary education,

b) "Lingkod Kabataan sa Agrikultura Trust Fund" or "The Fund" refers to the trust fund Created under this Act to ensure the achievement of this Act's incentives,

c) "Agribusiness Venture Laboratory" refers to agricultural subjects and classes designed as business ventures in agriculture, fisheries, forestry, and agri- entrepreneurship including but not limited to raising of poultry, goats, Corn Or rice or Crop production and Counted as satisfying the laboratory requirement of a course.

ARTICLE II

THE LINGKOD KABATAAN SA AGRIKULTURA PROGRAM

SEC. 5. **Establishment of a Lingkod Kabataan sa Agrikultura Program.** - A Lingkod Kabataan sa Agrikultura scholarship program in agriculture, fisheries, forestry and related areas to be administered by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) is hereby established. The program shall be a ladderized program in Diploma in Agricultural Technology (DAT), Bachelor in Agricultural Technology (BAT) and Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness (BSAgrib). The program shall initially be offered by the University of the Philippines - Los Baños College of Agriculture in the first two (2) years of this Act's effectivity. The program shall be offered in SUCs which provide courses in agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and other allied fields.

SEC. 6. **Target Beneficiaries.** - The Program shall target Senior High School graduates of agricultural and fisheries tracks, and similarly situated students of agriculture and fisheries in tertiary education, who have a general weighted average of at least eighty percent (80%) or its equivalent. Provided, that beneficiaries who complete the agriculture and fisheries tracks of senior high and who enroll in an agriculture, forestry, fisheries, or other similar course in tertiary education shall continue to be covered by the Program.

SEC. 7. **Assistance to Grantees.** - Beneficiaries of the Program shall be entitled to financial assistance, which shall include the following:

- a) Tuition and other school fees,
- b) Outright grant for prescribed textbooks and essential school supplies,
- c) Transportation expenses, and
- d) Monthly living allowance.

SEC. 8. **Curriculum Formulation.** - There is hereby established a Technical Committee which shall design the curriculum of the Program. The Committee shall be composed of the following:

- a) The Chairperson of the CHED, or his permanent representative, as Chairperson of the Committee,

b) The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA), or his permanent representative, as the Vice Chairperson,

c) The Dean of the University of the Philippines-Los Baños College of Agriculture, and

d) One (1) representative each from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao from other Colleges of agriculture, who shall be appointed by the President, and who shall each serve a term of one (1) year.

At least twenty-five percent (25%) of the entire curriculum of the Program shall be in the form of on-the-job training or related learning experience. Laboratory Components of various agricultural subjects shall be in the form of agribusiness Ventures.

SEC. 9. *Strengthening Agri-Fisheries Tracks in Senior High.* - To achieve the objectives of this Act, the Department of Education (DepEd) is hereby directed to ensure that agri-fisheries tracks are offered in as many senior high school programs in appropriate areas nationwide.

SEC. 10. *Agribusiness Venture Laboratories.* - Each agribusiness venture shall be under the supervision of a faculty who is also a technology expert in the chosen commodity. The agribusiness venture laboratory to be developed must have short gestation, around three to twelve (3 to 12) months, should be science and technology based agribusiness, the end products should be highly marketable and the facilities needed should be present within the SUC. One (1) representative each from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao from other Colleges of agriculture, who shall be appointed by the President, and who shall each serve a term

SEC. 11. *Use of Idle Lands for the Agribusiness Venture Laboratory.* - The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) shall make available untenured public lands under its jurisdiction for the use of students in their agribusiness ventures under appropriate arrangements with CHED and the participating SUCs.

ARTICLE III

THE LINGKOD KABATAAN SA AGRIKULTURA TRUST FUND

SEC. 12. *Lingkod Kabataan sa Agrikultura Trust Fund* - To ensure the financial sustainability of this Act, a Lingkod Kabataan sa Agrikultura Trust Fund is hereby Created. The Fund shall be used exclusively to fund the Program, and shall be funded from the following sources:

a) The amount of Fifty Million Pesos (Php 50,000,000.00) as seed capital;

b) The equivalent of ten percent (10%) annual share on the total gross Collections of the travel tax;

c) The equivalent of ten percent (10%) annual share on the total gross collections from the Professional Registration Fee of the Professional Regulatory Commission;

d) Grants, donations and endowments from domestic and foreign sources, pursuant to existing laws and regulations,

e) Such amounts as may be indicated under the General Appropriations Act (GAA) for the purpose of sustaining the Fund, and

f) All interest income of the trust fund.

SEC. 13. **Administration of the Fund.** - The CHED shall administer the fund and shall make available all records of how the funds are utilized, disbursed, and invested, in accordance with existing laws.

ARTICLE IV FINAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 14. **Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - The CHED in coordination with the DA, and DENR and relevant private sector stakeholders shall prepare the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of this Act and promulgate it within ninety (90) days after approval of this Act.

SEC. 15. **Separability Clause.** - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the provisions hereof which are not affected shall continue to have force and effect.

SEC. 16. **Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, orders, rules or regulations thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby modified or repealed accordingly.

SEC. 17. **Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

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