

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2462

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ARTHUR C. YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This measure prescribes the strengthening of the national extension system to accelerate agriculture and fisheries development. This has been duly supported by the undersigned representation during his incumbency as Secretary of Agriculture.

The primary objective of this measure is to support the development of a national extension system that will help accelerate the transformation of agriculture and fisheries sectors of the Country from a resource based industry to knowledge and technology based and market-oriented industry.

Under this measure, the Agricultural Training Institute shall be strengthened and transformed into the Philippine Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Agency (PAFEA). It shall serve as the national apex organization for a unified and efficient agriculture and fisheries extension system of the country. Among others, the PAFEA shall be:

- The coordinator of all government extension programs in agriculture and fisheries, providing direction, developing strategic plans, and implementing policies and programs for a more efficient and client-responsive national agriculture and fisheries knowledge management system;
- Tasked to develop a National Agriculture & Fisheries Knowledge Network (NAFKN) through a system of partnerships with LGUs, development councils, civil society organizations, rural based organizations and the private sector; and,
- Made to team up with state universities and colleges (SUCs) in the implementation of extension innovations, training, and monitoring and evaluation of extension institutions and programs.

The other essential features of this bill include the:

- Strengthening of the Council for Extension Research Development in Agriculture and Fisheries (CERDAF).
- At the LGU level, making the Provincial Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Services under the Office of the Governor, the administrative unit for the planning and implementation of the extension services.
- Transferring to the province all municipal and non-chartered agriculture and fisheries extension personnel, but to continue to serve municipalities and non-chartered cities as detailed employees of the province.
- Professionalizing of extension services via the development of qualification standards beyond the minimum set by the Civil Service Commission for the various managerial, technical, and non-technical positions of the extension services of the country.
- Requiring all provincial governments to develop a five-year strategic plan in agriculture and fisheries that shall serve as the basis for the Department of Agriculture to provide short and long term assistance.
- Initially appropriating the amount of Five Billion Pesos for personal services, grants-in-aid to the LGUs, operation and capital outlay requirements of the PAFEA.
- Tasking the Congressional Oversight Committee for Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization to oversee the implementation of this Act for a period of five years.

With this measure, one of the root causes of agricultural problems, which is weak research and development extension services, will be addressed. The goals of poverty alleviation and social equity, food security, rational use of resources and sustainable development, global competitiveness, and, people empowerment, all embodied under Republic Act 8435 or the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act or the AFMA may soon be achieved.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of the bill is earnestly sought.



ARTHUR C. YAP
Representative

Republic of the Philippines
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House Bill No. 2462

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ARTHUR C. YAP

AN ACT
PRESCRIBING THE STRENGTHENING OF THE
NATIONAL EXTENSION SYSTEM TO ACCELERATE
AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines
in Congress assembled.*

ARTICLE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Agriculture
and Fisheries Extension Act of 2016."

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. - The goals of the national economy
are a more equitable distribution of opportunities, income and wealth; a
sustained increase in the amount of goods and services produced by the
nation for the benefit of the people; and an expanding productivity as the key
to raising the quality of life for all, especially the underprivileged.

The State shall promote industrialization and full employment based
on sound agricultural development and agrarian reform, through industries
that make full and efficient use of human and natural resources, and which

1 are competitive in both domestic and foreign markets. In pursuit of these
2 goals, all sectors of the economy and all regions of the country shall be
3 given optimum opportunity to develop.

4 Thus, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to enable those who
5 belong to the agriculture and fisheries sector to participate and share in the
6 fruits of development and growth in a manner that utilizes the nation's
7 resources in the most efficient and sustainable way possible by establishing a
8 more equitable access to assets, income, basic and support services and
9 infrastructure.

10 The State shall give priority to promote science, technology and
11 human resource development as essentials for national development and
12 progress.

13 The State shall utilize research results through information, extension
14 and communication services. It shall support the development of a national
15 extension system that will help accelerate the transformation of agriculture
16 and fisheries sectors of the Country from a resource-based industry to a
17 knowledge and technology-based and market-oriented industry.

18 The State shall adopt the market approach in assisting the agriculture
19 and fisheries sector while recognizing the contribution of these sectors to
20 food security, environmental protection, and balanced urban and rural
21 development, without neglecting the welfare of the consumers, especially
22 the lower income groups.

23 The State shall promote market-oriented policies in agricultural
24 production to encourage farmers to shift to more profitable crops.

1 The State shall empower the agriculture and fisheries sector to
2 develop and sustain themselves to meet present and future needs of the
3 Country.

4 Toward this end, the State shall ensure the establishment and
5 development of the agriculture and fisheries extension system that increases
6 and sustains its contributions to the achievement of the goals of agriculture
7 modernization as mandated by Republic Act 8435:

8 a) Poverty Alleviation and Social Equity;

9 b) Food Security;

10 c) Rational Use of Resources and Sustainable Development;

11 d) Global Competitiveness; and,

12 e) People Empowerment.

13 **Sec. 3. Definition of Terms.** As used in this Act, the term:

14 1. "*Agriculturist*" - refers to a person who is a graduate of a bachelor's
15 degree in agriculture or any related course registered and licensed with the
16 Professional Regulation Commission or Civil Service Commission; who
17 performs communication, curriculum development, econometrics, statistical
18 work, training and extension works in agriculture production, trade, and
19 processing including crop and animal protection, food safety, agricultural
20 and natural resource economics, and marketing;

21 2. "*Agricultural Engineer*" - refers to a person registered with the
22 Professional Regulation Commission or Civil Service Commission
23 performing training and extension work in agricultural and fisheries
24 mechanization, irrigation, drainage, soil and water conservation, agricultural
25 buildings and structures, agricultural processing and post harvest facilities;

1 3. "*Catalytic Financing*" - the provision of financial support to
2 achieve excellence, equity and increased investment by the local
3 governments in the implementation of agriculture and fisheries extension
4 services towards the achievement of national goals;

5 4. "*Civil Society*" - refers to the group of organizations whose un-
6 coerced collective action revolves around shared interests, purposes and
7 values. Civil societies are organizations composed of community groups,
8 women's organizations, faith-based organizations, professional associations,
9 trade unions, self-help groups, social movements, business associations,
10 coalitions and advocacy groups;

11 5. "*Consumers*" - are those that acquire goods or services for direct
12 use or ownership rather than for resale or use in production and
13 manufacturing;

14 6. "*Empowerment*" - is the expansion of assets and capabilities of
15 people to participate in, negotiate with, influence, control and hold
16 accountable institutions that affect their lives; it involves providing
17 authority, responsibility, and information to people directly engaged on
18 agriculture and fishery production, primarily at the level of the farmers,
19 fisherfolk and those engaged in food and non-food production and
20 processing, in order to give them enhanced economics rights;

21 7. "*Fisheries*" - refers to all systems or networks of interrelated
22 activities which include the production, growing, harvesting, processing,
23 marketing, developing, conserving and managing of all aquatic and fisheries
24 areas;

1 8. *"Fisheries Technologist"* - refers to a person who is a graduate of a
2 four year course in Fisheries and registered and licensed with the
3 Professional Regulation Commission or Civil Service Commission
4 performing training and extension on fisheries, marine resources and
5 aquaculture;

6 9. *"Food Security"* - refers to the policy objective, plan and strategy of
7 meeting the food requirements of the present and future generations, of
8 Filipinos in substantial quantity, ensuring the availability and affordability of
9 safe and nutritious food to all, either through local production or
10 importation, or both, based on the country's existing and potential resource
11 endowment and related production advantages, and consistent with the
12 overall national development objectives and policies;

13 10. *"Formula Grants"* - these are national government financial
14 transfers to the local governments to support the regular expenditures in the
15 provision of Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Services (AFES) based on
16 a formula that takes into consideration, among others, the level of economic
17 development of a municipality or a province;

18 11. *"Gross Value Added in Agriculture"* - refers to the total value,
19 excluding the value of non-agricultural or fisheries intermediate inputs, of
20 goods and services contributed by the agricultural and fisheries sectors;

21 12. *"Knowledge Management"* - is a systematic approach which
22 invents, understands, shares, creates and utilizes knowledge in order to
23 create values such as customer's value, employee's value, stockholder's
24 value, business partner's value and social value to achieve the vision and
25 goal of the organization;

1 13. *"Partnership"* - a relationship between and among agencies that is
2 characterized by mutual cooperation and responsibility towards the
3 achievement of shared goals;

4 14. *"Private sector"* - the part of a nation's economy that is not owned
5 and managed by the government;

6 15. *"Producer"* - one that produces, especially a person or
7 organization, that produces goods or services for sale;

8 16. *"RBOs"* - are rural based organizations or people's organizations
9 composed of various sectors of the rural community such as farmers,
10 fisherfolk, growers, seed producers, women, and youth;

11 17. *"Targeted Financial Transfer"* - is a financial support provided by
12 the national government to the LGUs in support of national goals or
13 programs;

14 18. *"Value chain"* - is a process from seed to shelf or from the
15 producers to the consumers, showing activities and interventions of/for a
16 chosen commodity/ties based on understanding the needs for such
17 interventions;

18 19. *"Veterinarian"* - refers to a person registered with the
19 Professional Regulation Commission performing professional services
20 related to the practice of veterinary medicine including training and
21 extension on disease prevention control and animal health.

22 **Sec. 4. Statement of Goals.** - Agricultural extension is a policy
23 instrument for empowering individuals and organizations; public agriculture
24 extension shall contribute towards the achievement of the national goals of
25 agriculture development.

1 **Sec. 5. Statement of Objectives.** - Agriculture and fisheries extension

2 shall contribute to the following objectives:

3 a) To enhance the economic rights of Producers, especially the poor,
4 to use the most appropriate technologies they feel will give them
5 the best profit and to choose the most affordable loans in
6 producing the quality and quantity of products and to sell their
7 products freely; Traders, to move goods in the expectation of
8 profits unconstrained by serious lack of knowledge and
9 information; and Consumers, to buy safe and nutritious foods at
10 the lowest prices possible.

11 b) To manage knowledge in strengthening the individual and
12 organizational capabilities of producers, traders and consumers;
13 and

14 c) To help create an enabling environment that strengthens the
15 linkage between knowledge generation and knowledge use and
16 encourages increased investment in agriculture extension by the
17 private sector, civil society, and Local Governments.

18 **Sec. 6. Clients.** - The clients of Philippine agricultural and fisheries

19 extension system are the producers (farmers, fisherfolk, agricultural
20 processors), traders, and consumers along the value chain. Public extension
21 shall focus on the delivery of public goods. The priority clients shall be the
22 economically and socially disadvantaged groups in agriculture and fisheries.
23 Local Government Units shall put primary attention to these groups in the
24 provision of extension services through formula grants and targeted and
25 catalytic financing of National Government Agencies.

ARTICLE II - Structure and Organization

Sec. 7. Creation of the Philippine Agriculture and Fisheries

Extension Agency (PAFEA). - The Agricultural Training Institute is hereby strengthened and transformed into the Philippine Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Agency (PAFEA). It shall serve as the national apex organization for a unified and efficient agriculture and fisheries extension system of the country. It shall ensure that public extension services meet the national standards of performance and effectively contribute towards the achievement of the national goals of agriculture and fisheries modernization.

The Philippine Agricultural and Fisheries Extension Agency (PAFEA) shall coordinate all government extension programs in agriculture and fisheries.

Sec. 8. Powers and Functions. The powers and functions of the PAFEA are as follows:

- a) Provide direction in the development of national extension policies in agriculture and fisheries;
- b) Orchestrate the development of extension strategic plan including its financing in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management and other stakeholders;
- c) Develop and implement national policies and programs aimed at the continuous improvement of the quality of extension methods, products, and services towards a more efficient and client-responsive national agriculture and fisheries knowledge management system;

- 1 d) Develop a system towards the management of the country's
2 extension resources for agriculture and fisheries to ensure a
3 sustainable, participatory and efficient system of funding for
4 information, education, and communication materials (IEC) and to
5 achieve optimal efficiency along the value chain;
- 6 e) Provide leadership in the development and implementation of the
7 National Agriculture & Fisheries Knowledge Network (NAFKN)
8 in agriculture and fisheries of the Department through a system of
9 partnerships that may include, but not be limited to, the (Local
10 Government Units) LGUs, the regional development council
11 (RDC), the Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Council (RAFCs),
12 the academe especially the SUCs of agriculture and fisheries, the
13 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), producers, rural based
14 organizations (RB0)s and the private sector;
- 15 f) Provide national leadership in consultation with agriculture and
16 fisheries councils (AFCs), in developing extension partnerships
17 towards increased investment and private sector participation;
- 18 g) Team up with state universities and colleges (SUCs) of agriculture
19 and fisheries as key partners in the implementation of the national
20 programs specially in the areas of extension innovations, national
21 training, and monitoring and evaluation of extension institutions
22 and programs;
- 23 h) Provide leadership in developing and implementing a national
24 system of strengthening institutional extension capacities at all
25 levels of implementation; and

1 i) In coordination with the Department of Budget and Management
2 (DBM); the Local Government Units, The Department of Local
3 governments, and other stakeholders, the PAFEA shall set up a
4 review mechanism for all agriculture and fisheries extension
5 programs and budgets of national agencies to determine cost
6 effectiveness of operations and potential impacts to national goals.

7 **Sec. 9. Structure of PAFEA.** - It shall be headed by a Director
8 General (DG) with a rank of Assistant Secretary to be assisted by two
9 Deputy Director Generals (DDG) and they shall be appointed by the
10 President upon recommendation of the Secretary of Agriculture from a list
11 submitted by an independent Search Committee organized and based on the
12 qualification standards set by the Council for Extension Research
13 Development in Agriculture and Fisheries (CERDAF). They shall have a
14 fixed tenure of six (6) years and may be re-appointed for an additional term
15 of four (4) years based on very satisfactory performance.

16 **Sec. 10. The Council for Extension Research Development in**
17 **Agriculture and Fisheries (CERDAF)** - The Council for Extension
18 Research Development in Agriculture and Fisheries (CERDAF) is hereby
19 strengthened. It shall ensure that the agriculture and fisheries research,
20 development and extension policies and programs of the Department are
21 consistent with national policies and priorities.

22 a) Functions and duties of the Council for Extension Research
23 Development in Agriculture and Fisheries (CERDAF).

(1) Approve policies covering program priorities and resource allocation in research and extension of all agencies of the Department;

(2) Enhance coordination and linkage of government institutions involved in agriculture and fisheries research, development and extension;

(3) Strengthen the participation of various stakeholders, especially the civil society, local government units, and private sector in the development of National Research Development and Extension (NRDE) agenda and programs;

(4) Strengthen the institutional efficiency of the NRDE system, including the setting up of a monitoring and evaluation system on the effectiveness and efficiency of its various components; and

(5) Set guidelines in the use of services and facilities, collection of fees and in the utilization of income.

Sec. 11. Composition of the Council for Extension Research

Development in Agriculture and Fisheries (CERDAF). The Undersecretary for Policy and Planning of the DA shall be the Chair of the Council. There shall be a Vice Chair to be elected from among the other members of the Board. The Executive Director of the Philippine Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Agency (PAFEA) and the Director of the Bureau of Agriculture Research (BAR) shall be ex officio members and the Chair shall appoint the Executive Director of PAFEA as Secretary of the Council. The CERDAF shall have the following as members:

- (1) Designated Undersecretaries for Policy & Planning of the following Departments:
 - i. Department of Science and Technology;
 - ii. Department of Environment and Natural Resources;
 - iii. Department of Agrarian Reform;
- (2) Presidents of the following LGU organizations:
 - i. League of Provinces;
 - ii. Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP);
- (3) Four (4) CSO representatives from the rural youth, rural women, and farmer, and fisherfolk sectors as identified and selected by the Department of Agriculture;
- (4) One (1) private sector representative designated by the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP);
- (5) Representatives from scientific/professional organizations/societies;
- (6) One representative each from the following national professional organizations:
 - i) agriculturists;
 - ii) agricultural engineers;
 - iii) fishery technologists and
 - iv) veterinarians.

Sec. 12. Offices under the PAFEA. - To carry out the functions of the Agency, PAFEA shall have four technical offices as follows:

- (1) Policy Development;
- (2) Extension Innovations & National Training;

(3) Knowledge Products & Services Development; and

(4) Extension Governance & Partnerships.

The PAFEA shall maintain a small regional office to:

(1) liaise with the Department Regional Field Units (RFUs) that should serve as the principal arm of the Department to implement extension policies and programs in the regions

(2) provide regional technical assistance in the implementation of PAFEA policies and programs, and

(3) monitor and evaluate extension offices and programs being undertaken by government agencies. The PAFEA is authorized to utilize existing Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) plantilla positions but in no case shall it exceed 85% of the plantilla positions in 2008.

ARTICLE III Organization of the Local Government Extension Services

Sec. 13. Province as the LGU Unit of Operation for Agriculture &

Fisheries Extension. - To achieve efficiency and to provide more responsive services, the administrative unit for the planning and implementation of the extension services at the level of Local Government Units is the province through a Provincial Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Services under the Office of the Governor. The Provincial Agriculture and Extension Services shall be headed by a technically-qualified career Provincial Agriculturist (PA). The PAS shall be appointed by the Director General of PAFEA chosen from three qualified nominees submitted by the Governor. Its staff shall be composed of technically

1 qualified career agriculturists, economists, statisticians, agricultural
2 engineers, fishery technologists and veterinarians appointed by the
3 Provincial Governor.

4 **Sec. 14. Extension Personnel in the Municipalities.** - All municipal
5 and non-chartered agriculture and fisheries extension personnel are hereby
6 transferred to the province, and they shall be appointed by Governor and
7 become employees of the provincial government upon the effectivity of this
8 Act. However, they will continue to serve municipalities and non-chartered
9 cities as detailed employees of the province based on a rationalized
10 organizational structure endorsed by the LGUs and approved by the PAFEA
11 and the DBM. The Municipal Agriculture and Extension Services shall be
12 headed by a technically-qualified career Municipal Agriculturist Officer
13 (MAO) who shall be appointed by the Director General of PAFEA chosen
14 from three qualified nominees submitted by the Governor.

15 **Sec. 15. Salaries and Wages of Extension Personnel.** - The salaries
16 and wages of the agriculture and fisheries technical extension personnel
17 shall be paid by the National Government through an annual grant-in-aid to
18 be paid out of the regular appropriation of the PAFEA of the Department of
19 Agriculture; *Provided, however,* that during the first year of the effectivity of
20 this Act, the local government concerned shall reallocate its savings from the
21 personal services for agricultural personnel to its agriculture and fisheries
22 operations; *Provided, further,* that every year thereafter, the concerned LGU
23 shall appropriate the equivalent funds as the minimum amount for its
24 agricultural and fisheries operation or counterparts to national grants-in-aid
25 in agriculture and fisheries, without prejudice to the provision of additional

1 funds that may be allocated by the LGUs for this purpose. The salaries and
2 wages of technical extension personnel shall be standardized and equal to
3 that of comparable positions of national employees without prejudice to the
4 provision of additional staff benefits by concerned LGUs where finances
5 warrant. The provision of grants in aid to pay for the salaries and wages of
6 the technical personnel of the LGU extension services shall be subject to
7 external review and evaluation every five years to determine its impact to
8 the quality of services and its cost-effectiveness. A copy of the report shall
9 be provided to Congress and serve as the basis for the continuation or
10 modification of the grants-in-aid.

11 **Sec. 16. Professionalization of Extension Services.** The PAFEA, in
12 coordination with the Civil Service Commission and subject to the approval
13 of the CERDAF, shall develop qualification standards beyond the minimum
14 set by the Civil Service Commission for the various managerial, technical,
15 and non-technical positions of the extension services of the country
16 including that of all local government units. The PAFEA shall also develop a
17 career path of all technical extension personnel that will allow them
18 regardless of assignment or location in government, to move vertically in the
19 promotion system. Managerial positions shall be open to all qualified
20 personnel regardless of geographic or agency assignment. Towards this end,
21 the PAFEA shall issue guidelines for the creation of a merit promotion
22 boards for each extension agency that will include representatives of the
23 SUCs of agriculture and fisheries.

24 **Sec. 17. Structure of the Provincial Extension Services.** - The
25 provincial agriculture and fisheries extension services shall organize and

1 structure its services based on the agricultural and extension needs of the
2 province and on the standards set by the PAFEA. The technical positions of
3 the PAFEA, and the Provincial Extension Services shall be rationalized to
4 provide the required number of positions for agriculturists, communication
5 and curriculum specialists, economists, agricultural engineers, fishery
6 technologists and veterinarians.

7 **Sec. 18. LGU Livestock Production Services.** In recognition of the
8 need to provide an integrated extension approach to total farm development,
9 the LGU livestock production Services shall be part and parcel of the
10 Provincial Agricultural Office (PAO). In cases where these functions were
11 transferred to the Provincial Veterinary Services, they shall be returned and
12 integrated to the rest of the PAO services.

13 **Section 19. Strategic Plan in Agriculture & Fisheries.** To provide
14 coherence of all government plans in agriculture and fisheries and to achieve
15 efficiency in the use of resources, all provincial governments are required to
16 develop a five-year strategic plan in agriculture and fisheries based on the
17 framework and principles provided by the Department of Agriculture (DA).
18 The Strategic Plan shall serve as the basis for the DA to provide short-term
19 and long-term assistance. The yearly program of work and budget shall be
20 derived from the strategic plan.

21 **ARTICLE IV Funding for Extension Services**

22 **Sec. 20. Initial Appropriation.** - For the first year of implementation of
23 this Act, the amount of five billion pesos (PHP 5,000,000,000.00) shall be
24 appropriated out of the total budget of the Dept of Agriculture (DA) for
25 personal services, grants-in-aid to the LGUs, operation and capital outlay

1 requirements of the Philippine Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Agency
2 (PAFEA).

3 The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) is hereby
4 mandated to include annually in the President's program of expenditures for
5 submission to Congress and release an amount not less than five billion
6 pesos (PHP 5,000,000,000.00) or one percent of the gross value added in
7 agriculture and fisheries, whichever is higher, for the implementation of this
8 Act.

9 The PAFEA is authorized to utilize part of its yearly appropriation to
10 set up or upgrade necessary facilities to improve the provision of national
11 extension services. All assets, resources both human and financial of
12 Agriculture Training Institute (ATI), shall be transferred to the PAFEA. All
13 revenues generated out of the use of services, facilities and equipment shall
14 be utilized by the Agency to augment its maintenance and operating
15 expenditures subject to the approval of the Governing Board.

16 **ARTICLE IV Final Provisions**

17 **Sec. 21. Oversight Committee.** - The Congressional Oversight
18 Committee for Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization shall oversee the
19 implementation of this Act for a period not exceeding five (5) years from its
20 effectivity.

21 **Sec. 22. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** -Within ninety (90)
22 days from the effectivity of this Act, the implementing rules and regulations
23 shall be formulated by the Department of Agriculture in coordination with
24 the members of the Congressional Oversight Committee on Agriculture and
25 Fisheries Modernization. The said rules and regulations shall be submitted

1 by the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA) to the Committee of
2 Agriculture of both Houses of Congress.

3 **Sec. 23. Separability Clause.** - If any provision of this Act, or any
4 parts thereof, is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the
5 validity and effectivity of the other portions.

6 **Sec. 24. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, executive orders, presidential
7 decrees, proclamations, rules, regulations, issuances and enactments of parts
8 thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified
9 accordingly.

10 **Sec. 25. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from
11 its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general
12 circulation in the Philippines, whichever comes earlier.

APPROVED.