



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

3213

House Bill No. _____

Introduced by Hon. Faustino Michael Carlos T. Dy III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill aims to merely confirm the place of farmers in our lives. Farmers toil to bring food to our table. Most of the time their efforts are hardly rewarded – when nature is unkind, or man-made reasons thwart what might otherwise have been even slightly profitable harvests.

Since time immemorial, farmers have invested sweat, tears and blood to harness land before break of dawn, and jealously watched their crops grow, with fervent prayers for bountiful harvest. Despite setbacks year in and out, they have persevered so that we would not unnecessarily suffer for lack.

The recognition of farmers – living or dead – as our national heroes, is long overdue. Hence, government departments – especially the Departments of Education, Agriculture, Agrarian Reform – are enjoined to lead the celebration, and remind our people, of our farmers' rightful place of honor. Not just for a day – which can slip by and be fleeting – but for a month. This bill seeks the declaration of August as "Buwan ng Magsasaka" or "National Farmer's Month."

From a young age, our children should be taught about the heroism of our farmers – hence the involvement of Department of Education – and the belief inculcated in their young minds. Much like the Filipino language is celebrated for a week with school programmes in the Basic Education department with *sabayang pagbigkas*, *pakikipagtalastasan*, quizzes, etc., similar activities are encouraged to be held for a month exalting our farmers. CHED, DA, DAR, DOST, their related agencies and offices, DILG and all local government units are likewise so enjoined, and may also hold activities feting them for exemplary practices, amongst others.

Farmers' Days had been declared by previous administrations including Presidents Jose P. Laurel and Ferdinand Marcos, but it is to be noted that these have regretfully been put to disuse; there are likewise fragmented efforts, such as some localities conducting their own celebrations. It is time that a nationwide, collective, united effort to honor our hitherto humble farmers is made. It is hoped

that by doing so, more will be encouraged to enter farming as a profession and noble vocation.

In view of this representation's burning desire to correct the neglect of this sector and restore their dignity, immediate approval of this measure is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a vertical line on the left side.

FAUSTINO MICHAEL CARLOS T. DY III
5th District, Isabela

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3213

INTRODUCED BY REP. FAUSTINO MICHAEL CARLOS T. DY III

AN ACT TO DECLARE AUGUST OF EVERY YEAR AS NATIONAL FARMERS' MONTH,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Title. – This Act shall be known as "Farmers' Month Act."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared a policy of the State to promote and thus increase nationwide awareness of the significance of farmers in the society by mandating a month-long celebration in schools and relevant government offices.

SECTION 3. August of every year is hereby declared as "Buwan ng Magsasaka."

SECTION 4. The Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education, Departments of Agriculture, Agrarian Reform, Science and Technology, and Interior and Local Government, discharge the following functions and responsibilities:

- a) Plan and conduct month-long programs appropriate to their respective department;
- b) Allocate the necessary sums for activities feting exemplary farmers;
- c) DepEd to include relevant lessons concerning farmers and farming, e.g., history and historical personalities, farming activities, etc., in the Basic Education curriculum;
- d) CHED to enjoin state universities and colleges and private educational institutions offering agriculture-related courses to celebrate the "Farmers Month;"
- e) Advertise the month-long celebration widely with minimal cost, including visible declarations on-site and online;
- f) Monitor and ensure that their satellite offices are observing this

celebration, as appropriate.

SECTION 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The Department of Education, as lead, shall formulate the necessary programs, rules and regulations with the collaboration of the Departments of Agriculture, Agrarian Reform, Science and Technology, and Interior and Local Government, and CHED, and their attached offices to implement this Act within ninety (90) days after its effectivity.

SECTION 6. Penal Provision. – Any government employee or official who violates any provision of this Act shall be punished with a fine not exceeding PhP, 5,000.00.

SECTION 7. Repealing Clause. – All acts, decrees, letters of instruction, issuances, orders, or parts thereof inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. Separability Clause. – If any part of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the rest of the provisions shall remain in force and effect.

SECTION 9. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect 15 days after its publication in two newspapers of general circulation or in the Official Gazette.

APPROVED.