

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **4483**

Introduced by Honorable Michael L. Romero

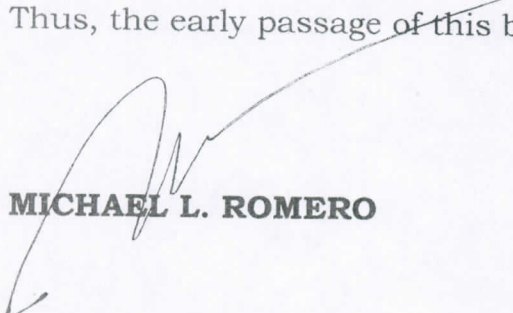
EXPLANATORY NOTE

The State recognizes the importance of promoting, developing and implementing the practice of organic agriculture in the Philippines that will cumulatively condition and enrich the fertility of the soil, increase farm productivity, reduce pollution and destruction of the environment, prevent the depletion of natural resources, further protect the health of farmers, consumers and the general public, and save on imported farm inputs.

The state shall create a comprehensive program for the promotion of community-based **organic agriculture systems** which include, among others, farmer-produced purely organic fertilizers such as compost, pesticides and other farm inputs, together with a nationwide educational and promotional campaign for their use and processing, as well as the adoption of organic agricultural system as a viable alternative shall be undertaken.

This House Bill seeks to augment the support for farmers, indigenous people and other stakeholders at the grassroots.

Thus, the early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.


MICHAEL L. ROMERO

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AN ACT

**AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT 10068, "OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
THE ORGANIC AGRICULTURE ACT OF 2010", APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR, PROVIDING STIFFER PENALTIES AND
SANCTIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. Section 25 of republic Act 10068 is hereby amended to
read as follows:

SEC. 25. Appropriations. — The sum of One Hundred
million pesos (**Php100,000,000.00**) and the existing budget
for the promotion of organic farming of the DA is hereby
appropriated for the initial year of implementation of this Act.

Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for the
continuous operation of the NOAB and the implementation of
the program shall be included in the annual General
Appropriations Act (GAA).

The NOAB is hereby authorized to solicit and accept
assistance or facilities in the form of grants from individuals

and entities here and abroad, and to utilize these funds and resources for purposes of this Act, subject to the usual budget, accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

SECTION 2. Section 26 of republic Act 10068 is hereby amended to read as follows:

SEC. 26. Penal Provision. — Any person who willfully and deliberately:

(a) obstructs the development or propagation of organic agriculture, or the manufacture, production, sale or use of organic agricultural inputs;

(b) refuses without just cause to extend the support and assistance required under this Act; and

(c) mislabels or claims that the product is organic when it is not in accordance with the existing standards for Philippine organic agriculture or this Act shall, upon conviction, be punished by imprisonment of not less than one **(1)** year, or a fine of not less than One Hundred thousand pesos **(Php100,000.00)**, or both, at the discretion of the court.

If the offender is a corporation or a juridical entity, the official who ordered or allowed the commission of the offense shall be punished with the same penalty. If the offender is in the government service, he shall, in addition, be dismissed from office and thus perpetually disqualified to hold any government office.

SECTION 3. TRANSITORY PROVISION – Existing industries, businesses and offices affected by the implementation of this Act shall be given six **(6)** months transitory period from the effectivity of the IRR or such other period as may be determined, to comply with the requirements of this Act.

SECTION 4. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS. – The departments and agencies charged with carrying out the provisions of this Act shall, within sixty **(60)** days after the effectivity of this Act, formulate the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

SECTION 5. REPEALING CLAUSE. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. – If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 7. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE. – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation whichever comes earlier.

Approved,