

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2050



Introduced by Hon. Delphine Gan Lee

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The government is reportedly spending P914 million for the establishment of trading centers in four areas where farmers and livestock raisers can directly sell their products to institutional buyers and gain higher profit. Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala recently announced that four Agri-Pinoy Trading Centers (APTCs) will be put up in Benguet, Pangasinan, Nueva Ecija and Southern Mindanao, and will benefit at least 12,000 farmers and livestock raisers. The Secretary said the APTCs are patterned after the successful agricultural trading center called *Sentrong Pamilihan ng Produktong Agrikultura* ng Quezon, in Sariaya. This trading center was established in 2006 and since then has successfully increased the productivity and incomes of Quezon vegetable farmers.

This bill seeks to establish more Agric-Pinoy Trading Centers to institutionalize and make more permanent this program of the present administration. It will thus insulate this program from the changes that elections or a change in administration may bring. By providing better funding and a clearer mandate from the State, the Department of Agriculture will be better equipped in setting up these facilities all over the country.


HON. DELPHINE GAN LEE
Representative, AGRI Party-List

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**AN ACT
CREATING AN AGRI-PINOY TRADING CENTER
IN EVERY PROVINCE**

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This shall be known as the “Agri-Pinoy Trading Center
2 Act.”
3

4 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policies.* – The State recognizes that the agriculture and
5 fisheries sector provides food and vital raw materials for the rest of the economy;

6 The State also recognizes that rising productivity and efficiency in the sector are
7 critical in maintaining the affordability of food and purchasing power, especially among the
8 poor;

9 It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote, propagate, develop further and
10 implement the creation of agricultural trading and processing centers in the Philippines that
11 will cumulatively help farmers by eliminating middlemen and thus increase their income by
12 giving them access to buyers who can offer competitive prices. Towards this end, a
13 comprehensive program for the creation of a nationwide system of agricultural trading and
14 processing centers is hereby established.

15 The State recognizes and supports the central role of the farmers, indigenous people
16 and other stakeholders at the grassroots in this program.

1 SECTION 3. *Definitions.* – As used in this Act, the term “trading center” shall refer to
2 an establishment where farmers can offer their products for sale directly to wholesalers and
3 direct consumers thus eliminating middlemen in the sale of agricultural products.

4 For purposes of this Act, the term “Secretary” shall refer to the Secretary of the
5 Department of Agriculture.

6 SECTION 4. *Creation of Agri-Pinoy Trading and Processing Centers.* – The
7 Department of Agriculture (hereinafter the “Department”) shall establish and manage an
8 Agri-Pinoy Trading and Processing Center in every province with the following standards for
9 their creation and operation:

10 (a) The centers shall first be set up in provinces with available participatory funding
11 from the private sector and Local Government Units (LGUs);

12 (b) For the first five (5) years, the centers shall concentrate on the top three (3)
13 agricultural products of the province. The list shall be expanded to five after this
14 period;

15 (c) The goal of these centers is to provide an avenue where farmers and livestock
16 raisers can directly sell their products to institutional buyers and gain higher
17 profit;

18 (d) Each center shall be equipped with a processing plant and cold storage,
19 commercial areas, warehouses and post-harvest facilities.

20 SECTION 5. *Work Plan.* - In line with this Act, the Department shall develop the
21 following:

22 (a) A plan of bringing the program down to the grassroots, utilizing available
23 personnel and facilities on the local level and those of LGUs;

24 (b) A pattern of cooperation and mutual assistance with LGUs, People’s
25 Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations, which will maximize people
26 empowerment and participatory approaches to program formulation, implementation
27 and monitoring; and

28 (c) A schedule of short-term, medium-term and long-term targets on research and
29 development, marketing, trade promotion/initiatives, capacity building, among others.

30 SECTION 6. *Funding.* – The amount of twenty five billion pesos
31 (P25,000,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated for the initial year of this Act. Every year

1 thereafter, the amount of ten billion pesos (P10,000,000.00) shall be included in the budget of
2 the Department for the implementation and continued expansion of this program.

3 SECTION 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Secretary shall adopt rules
4 and regulation to implement the provisions of this Act within ninety (90) days from the date
5 of effectivity of this Act.

6 SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act or the application of
7 such provision to any person or circumstance is declared invalid, the remainder of the Act or
8 the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected by
9 such declaration.

10 SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
11 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent
12 with this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

13 SECTION 10. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
14 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Adopted,