



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session



House Bill No. 5893

Introduced by **Honorable ERLPE JOHN "PING" M. AMANTE**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to consolidate all farm-to-market road (FMR) development programs of the government into one comprehensive, time-bound program that will ensure the completion of priority road infrastructure projects leading to key agricultural and fishery production areas all over the country.

Currently, the implementation of FMR projects is beset by various challenges. One of which is having a project identification and prioritization process that is largely dependent on proposals submitted by local government units – not on a strategic plan that could have laid down an efficient infrastructure network for the agriculture sector. This is the primary reason why FMR development programs become very prone to political interventions. Another troubling observation is the piecemeal implementation of such projects that usually have limited impact to intended beneficiaries, with some even ending up as abandoned, unfinished roads.

The Agricultural Road Infrastructure (AGRI) Network Program aims to address two (2) main concerns regarding the implementation of FMR projects as illustrated above: (1) lack of a strategic plan, and (2) lack of funds. The proposed program shall strictly follow a ten (10) year Agricultural Road Infrastructure Network Plan – to be crafted through a nationwide consultation with various stakeholders – that will contain all priority road projects nationwide and shall be allocated a maximum of One Hundred Billion Pesos (P100,000,000,000.00) in its first five (5) years to ensure its immediate and timely implementation.

It is envisioned that after the implementation of the AGRI Network Program all key agricultural and fishery production areas will be efficiently linked to the market thus enhancing the productivity of our farmers and fisher folks and furthermore contributing to the government's goal of food security.

In view of the forgoing, I hereby request for the approval of this bill.


ERLPE JOHN "RING" M. AMANTE



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House Bill No. **5893**

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGRICULTURAL
ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE (AGRI) NETWORK PROGRAM

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* — This Act shall be known as the "**AGRI Network Act of 2015.**"

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — The State shall develop a comprehensive national road network that will support key agricultural and fishery production areas to ensure that the transport of produce and goods will be efficient, cost-effective, and convenient with the aim of attaining food security goals and improving the lives of farmers and fisher folks.

SECTION 3. *Agricultural Road Infrastructure (AGRI) Network Plan.* — The Department of Agriculture (DA) shall submit to Congress and to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act a National Agricultural Road Infrastructure Network Plan, hereinafter referred to as the Plan, that will contain all priority road projects – to include repair, rehabilitation and construction – that connect key agricultural, livestock, and fishery production areas to national primary and secondary roads. High priority will be given to road projects that will connect multiple production areas and areas that are major producers of rice, corn, coconut, livestock – primarily cows, swine, and poultry – and seafood.

Provided, that the DA shall ensure that a nationwide consultation with various government agencies, local government units, farmer and fisher folk groups, private sector, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders will be conducted during the preparation of the Plan.

Provided further, that the Plan shall be updated every three (3) years from the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 4. *Implementation.* — The DPWH shall lead in the implementation of the projects as contained in the Plan. The DPWH shall formulate a strategy to ensure the timely implementation of projects, such as, but not limited to the, clustering and geo-tagging of projects for cost efficiency in the procurement thereof and effective management and implementation of projects.

SECTION 5. *Period of Implementation.* — The AGRI Network Program, hereinafter referred to as the Program, under this Act shall be implemented within a period of ten (10) years.

SECTION 6. *Appropriations.* — Annual appropriations for the AGRI Network Program shall include the amounts necessary to support the funding requirements for all road infrastructure projects included in the Plan.

Appropriations for the Program shall be lodged under the Department of Agriculture (DA) but shall be released directly to the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) for implementation.

The program shall be based on a ceiling, for the first five (5) years, of One Hundred Billion Pesos (P100,000,000,000.00). Provided, that hereafter this amount may be increased commensurate to the increase in the Gross National Product (GNP).

SECTION 7. *Right of Way and Road Maintenance.* — All right-of-way issues including the payment to property owners shall be adequately addressed and settled by the concerned Local Government Unit (LGU) where the road project is located. The LGU shall also provide counterpart for the maintenance of the roads after completion and turn-over.

SECTION 8. *Incorporation of Existing Farm-to-Market Road Projects.* — Continuing appropriations for all FMR projects being funded and implemented by the national government prior to the effectivity of this Act, except those funded under the Grassroots Participatory Budgeting (GPB) program or any other similar program, and are included in the Plan shall be considered part of the Program's minimum appropriation as provided in Section 6.

New FMR programs and projects to be funded through foreign assistance after the effectivity of this Act are encouraged to be based on the Plan.

SECTION 9. *Congressional Oversight Committee.* — There is hereby created a Congressional Oversight Committee to monitor and oversee the implementation of the provisions of this Act. The Committee shall be composed of six (6) members from the Senate and six (6) members from the House of Representatives with the Chairpersons of Agriculture and Food of both houses as Joint Chairpersons. The five (5) members from each chamber shall be designated by the Senate President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives respectively. The minority shall have at least two (2) representatives from both chambers.

SECTION 10. *Monitoring and Evaluation.* — The DA shall develop a system to monitor the implementation of the Program. The Department shall make periodic reports to the Congressional Oversight Committee on Agricultural Road Infrastructure Network Program.

SECTION 11. *Sunset Review.* — As the need arises, or within ten (10) years after its effectivity, the Congressional Oversight Committee shall conduct a sunset review of this Act. The term "sunset review" shall mean a systematic evaluation of the accomplishments and impact of this Act, as well as the performance and organizational structure of its implementing agencies, for purposes of determining remedial legislations.

SECTION 12. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture shall issue rules and regulations as he may deem necessary for the implementation of this Act.

SECTION 13. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 14. *Separability Clause.* — If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected hereby shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 15. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,