

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **4477**



Introduced by Honorable Michael L. Romero

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In pursuant to SECTION 38 of RA No.10601 otherwise known as the "Agricultural and Fisheries Mechanization (AFMech) Law" that reads:

"Funding – The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the DA's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act".

The DA shall likewise set aside funds from the Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (ACEF) for grants to upgrade the Agricultural Machinery Testing and Evaluation Center (AMTEC) and to establish one (1) testing center in Visayas and one (1) testing center in Mindanao.

This House Bill seeks to allocate funds annually from the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) its regular R&D funds to support research programs, processing of patent applications, and testing and certification of locally designed agri-fisheries equipment and machineries.

Earnest approval of this bill is hereby requested.



MICHAEL L. ROMERO Ph.D

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AN ACT

**MANDATING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (DA) TO
SET ASIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDS FROM THE AGRICULTURAL
COMPETITIVENESS ENHANCEMENT FUND (ACEF) FOR GRANTS TO
UPGRADE THE AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY TESTING AND
EVALUATION CENTER (AMTEC), INCREASING ITS FUND
ALLOTMENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy

The Department of Agriculture (DA) shall provide an additional funding of Five hundred million pesos (**₱500,000,000.00**) to establish Two (2) AMTEC testing centers in Visayas and Two (2) AMTEC testing centers in Mindanao in pursuant to the mandate of RA No.10601 in enhancing and the mechanization of the state's agricultural equipments and other infrastructures.

SECTION 2. Supplemental Funding

- a.** The Commission on Higher Education (**CHED**) shall allocate funds from the Higher Education Development Fund necessary for the upgrading of agri-fisheries mechanization and engineering laboratory facilities of concerned SCUs, faculty training program and scholarships.
- b.** The Technical Educational Skills Development Authority (**TESDA**) shall likewise allocate funds from its annual appropriations necessary for the skills certification and training program for agri-fishery machinery technicians and operators.
- c.** The Bureau of Agricultural Research (**BAR**) shall therefore allocate funds annually from its regular R&D funds to support research programs, processing of patent applications, and testing and certification of locally designed agri-fisheries equipment and machineries.

All LGUs shall include in their investment plans, as part of the priority appropriations for local development fund, the funding support for the implementation of their respective provincial, city, municipal and barangay agricultural and fisheries mechanization programs in accordance with **Republic Act No. 7160** "Local Government Code of 1991" and its implementing rules and regulations and the Department of the Interior and Local Government-Department of Budget and Management (DILG-DBM) Joint Memorandum Circular No. 1, Series of 2005.

SECTION 3. Appropriation - There is hereby authorized to appropriate the necessary funds to carry-out into effect the provisions of this act. This funding shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 4. Repealing Clause. All laws, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 5. Separability Clause. If, for any reason or reasons, any portion or provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 6. Effectivity Clause. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,