

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **4590**



Introduced by Honorable Michael L. Romero

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippine Rice Research Institute (**PHILRICE**) is a government corporate entity attached to the Department of Agriculture created through Executive Order 1061 on 5 November 1985 (as amended) to help develop high-yielding and cost-reducing technologies for farmers.

The Institute accomplishes this mission through research and development work in our central and six branch stations, coordinating with a network that comprises 57 agencies and 70 seed centers located nationwide.

The Philippine Rice Research Institute has numerous interdisciplinary programs which develops and promotes technologies that are ecosystem-based, location- and problem-specific, and profitable to the Filipino farmers. The interdisciplinary programs were as follows: Direct-seeded irrigated lowland rice, Transplanted irrigated lowland rice, Hybrid rice, Rice for adverse environments, Rice-based farming systems, Rice and rice-based products, Policy research and advocacy, and Technology promotion.

The Research Institute also carried the seven R&D program structure from 1987 to 1998. These were Rice Varietal Improvement, Planting and Fertilizer Management, Integrated Pest Management, Rice-based Farming Systems, Rice Engineering and mechanization, Rice Chemistry and Food Science, and Social Science and Policy Research. A change to its R&D structure was implemented from 1998 to 2005.

Each multidisciplinary R&D program was carried by the different discipline-based divisions and each division participated in each R&D programs, as follows: Policy Research and Advocacy, Technology Promotion, Rice and Rice-based Products, Rice-Based Farming systems for Fragile Environment, Hybrid Rice, Transplanted Irrigated Lowland Rice, Direct Seeded Irrigated Lowland Rice, and Environmental Sustainability & Management.

This House Bill seeks to provide PHILRICE additional funding to fully perform its functions in accordance to its mandate.

Earnest approval of this bill is hereby requested.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael L. Romero', is written over the printed name.

MICHAEL L. ROMERO Ph.D

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AN ACT

**MANDATING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (DA) TO PROVIDE THE
PHILIPPINE RICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE (PHILRICE) WITH ADDITIONAL
FUNDING, ENSURING CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy – the Department of Agriculture shall hereby provide an additional funding of Fifty million pesos (**₱50,000,000.00**) to the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PHILRICE) to implement the provisions of this Act.

The PHILRICE is hereby authorized to re-align its appropriations, in the current year of the date of the effectivity of this Act to conform with its mandate.

SECTION 2. Powers and Functions - The PHILRICE shall hereby develop a national rice research program so as to sustain and further improve the gains

already made in rice production, improve the income and economic condition of small rice farmers, expand employment opportunities in the rural areas, and ultimately promote the general welfare of the people through self-sufficiency in rice production.

SECTION 3. Continuing Appropriation. - The Department of Agriculture (DA) in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) is hereby mandated to include annually in the next six **(6) years**, in the President's Program of expenditures for submission to Congress, and release, an additional amount of Fifty million pesos **(P50,000,000.00)** for the implementation of this Act.

The Director of Agriculture and Food and the Director of the Budget are hereby authorized and directed to set aside out of the existing funds of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. Thereafter, the government contribution to the PHILRICE shall be provided for in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA). The appropriations herein provided shall be subject to the fiscal control and management procedures.

All funds, savings and income of the PHILRICE shall constitute a revolving fund which shall be considered part of the funds automatically released to the latter, subject to the fiscal control and management procedures. Such funds, savings and income shall be used to achieve the purposes and objectives for which the PHILRICE was established.

SECTION 4. Periodic Reports - The Oversight Committee shall submit periodic reports on its findings and make recommendations on actions to be taken by Congress and Senate and the appropriate department, and in order to carry out the objectives and mandates of this Act, an additional amount of Fifty million pesos **(P50,000,000.00)** is hereby appropriated.

SECTION 5. Automatic Review - Every three **(3) years** after the effectivity of this Act, an independent review committee composed of Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) to be appointed by the President shall review the policies and programs of the PHILRICE and shall hereinafter make recommendations, based on its findings, to the President and to both Houses of Congress.

SECTION 6. Repealing Clause. All laws, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 7. 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 8. Effectivity Clause. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,