

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5190



Introduced by **MAGDALO Party-List Representative**
HON. GARY C. ALEJANO

Explanatory Note

The Social Weather Station in June 2015 estimated that around 2.8 million Filipino families have experienced involuntary hunger at least once in the past three months. This poses concerns in the health of the families who have experienced hunger as they are prone to malnutrition and other health conditions due to lack of food. The situation is expected to worsen as the Commission on Population (PopCom) projected that the country's population is expected to increase to 104 million, from 102.4 million, this year.

The increase in population poses a challenge in the government's capacity to provide food to its citizens. Studies have shown that new land is needed to grow enough food for everyone. This bill seeks to institutionalize urban agriculture and vertical farming in the highly-urbanized cities nationwide to address food security. Urban farming, or urban agriculture agriculture is the production, processing and marketing of food in response to the demand of consumers within a town, city, or metropolis, with the application of intensive production methods, such as the using and reusing urban sources and wastes, to yield a diversity of crops and livestock.

The proposed measure advances the use of idle and/ or abandoned government lots or buildings owned either by the national or local government for urban agriculture. It also Integrates Urban Agriculture and Vertical Farming in the academic curriculum for secondary and tertiary level students of both public and private academic institutions studying courses on Agriculture, Practical Arts, Home Economics, and/ or other subjects related to agriculture. It also incorporates the concept of Urban Agriculture and Vertical Farming in the National Service Training Program (NSTP) or the Citizens Military Training (CMT).

The bill further encourages the Participation of the Local Government Units by mandating them to formulate the policy on the practice of urban farming, utilizing unused spaces, and idle lands.

In view of the foregoing approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


GARY C. ALEJANO

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AN ACT
PROMOTING THE USE OF URBAN FARMING IN THE COUNTRY'S
METROPOLITAN AREAS TO ADDRESS FOOD SECURITY CONCERNS AND
REGENERATE ECOSYSTEM FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,
AND FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE.

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as "*The Urban*
2 *Agriculture Act 2017*".

3
4 **Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
5 reaffirm the fundamental right of every person to adequate food and to be free from
6 hunger. The achievement of self-sufficiency in food production is therefore adopted
7 as a primary state policy. Towards this end, key reforms for the development of
8 modern, appropriate, cost-effective and environmentally safe agricultural
9 technologies are hereby encouraged in order to ensure the food security of the
10 country.

11
12 **Sec. 3. Definition of Terms.**- For the purpose of this Act, the term:
13 **"Urban Agriculture"** shall refer to the practice of cultivating,
14 processing and distributing of food in, or around a village, town or city. Urban
15 agriculture also involves animal husbandry aquaculture, agro-forestry and
16 horticulture.

17 **"Vertical Farming"** shall refer to the method of farming that is
18 brought to the urban space by employing the concepts of indoor agriculture in
19 skyscrapers and other modern buildings.

20
21 **Sec.4. Comprehensive Research on Urban Farming.**- For purpose of this
22 Act, the respective Secretaries of the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the
23 Department of Science and Technology (DOST) are hereby mandated to promote the

1 use of urban agriculture and vertical farming in the country's metropolitan areas as an
2 instrument to address food security concerns and regenerate ecosystem functions of
3 the Philippines.

4 Idle and/or abandoned government lots and buildings owned by either national
5 and local governments or available lands resources in state universities and colleges
6 shall be considered for growing crops, raising livestock and producing food using the
7 said methods.

8
9 **Sec.5. Inclusion of Urban Agriculture and Vertical Farming in Agriculture**
10 **Training.-** Urban agriculture and vertical farming are used in agricultural shall be
11 integrated in the academic curriculum for secondary and tertiary level students of
12 both public and private academic institutions studying courses on Agriculture,
13 Practical Arts, Home Economics and/or other subjects related to agriculture. A course
14 curriculum on garden/urban gardening shall also be developed and included into the
15 regular curriculum of both elementary and secondary education.

16 All elementary and secondary schools,- public or private- state colleges and
17 universities shall implement urban gardening/agriculture and include in its regular
18 curriculum its practical or hand-on application.

19 For universities and colleges, urban gardening or agriculture shall form part of
20 the required period of time spent by students in the National Service Training
21 Program (NSTP) or the Citizens Military Training (CMT). A plan therefore for the
22 utilization or the maximizing space occupied by schools shall be formulated
23 specifically for urban gardening/agriculture. Instructional materials shall also be
24 developed.

25 The Department of Education (DepEd), in coordination with the Commission
26 on Higher Education (CHED), shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations
27 for the implementation of this Section within six (6) months from the date of
28 effectivity hereof.

29
30 **Sec.6. Appropriation.-** The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of
31 this Act shall be included and incorporated in the annual general appropriations of the
32 Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Science and Technology (DOST),
33 Department of Education (DepEd) and Commission on Higher Education (CHED).

34
35 **Sec.7. Local Government Units Participation.-** The local government units
36 shall formulate policy on the practice of urban farming, utilizing unused spaces and
37 idle lands. This shall require the enactment of local legislation institutionalizing urban
38 gardening or agriculture in all levels of the LGU. This also shall require local

1 governments to enact measures or ordinances that will include urban
2 gardening/agriculture as a regular component in budget appropriations of local
3 governments units.

4
5 **Sec. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.***- Within six (6) months from
6 the date of effectivity of this Act, the DA, the DOST and the DILG shall promulgate
7 the necessary implementing rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this
8 Act.

9
10 **Sec.9. *Separability Clause.***- If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
11 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected
12 shall remain valid and subsisting.

13
14 **Sec.10 *Repealing Clause.***- Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
15 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary
16 to or inconsistent with the provision of this act is hereby repealed, modified or
17 amended accordingly.

18
19 **Sec.11. *Effectivity Clause.***- This Act take effect fifteen (15) days from the
20 date if its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspaper
21 of general circulation.

Approved,