

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF THE REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. **6991**



Introduced by Representative MANUEL F. ZUBIRI

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Despite the country's heavy dependence on the agricultural sector for food security, the Philippines still outsources rice, crops, and livestock¹. The agricultural sector is waning as well, as its share in the GDP slowly diminishes, as fishers and farmers continue to receive salaries below minimum wage, and as the industry begins to age, given the median age for farmers stands at 57 years old². Interest in the profession has already been observed by a colleague, and it is high time interest is renewed especially among the youth if we are to sustain food security and boost the economy in line with our nation's potentials and natural resources³.

A mandatory agricultural class for public elementary schools may help keep the industry a sustainable one. Given the relative successes of private farm schools and social enterprises that offer continuous education to would-be farmers and businessmen, an early immersion and orientation of the Filipino youth as to the status of the industry, the benefits of a robust agricultural sector, and the business potential of the sector may entice them to engaging in agriculturally-related professions.

Given the existing specializations on agriculture and fisheries in the K-12 program, the seeds can be sown early by igniting interest in their younger years⁴. Change will take years, but there is hope we can still fortify the agricultural sector with the proper education, infrastructure, and support.

MANUEL F. ZUBIRI

¹ Gavilan, Jodesz, Rappler, "How can the Philippines have a booming agricultural sector?", <https://www.rappler.com/move-ph/issues/hunger/102624-improvements-philippine-agriculture>, accessed December 11, 2017

² Rappler, "WATCH: Making agriculture a viable career for millennials", <https://www.rappler.com/move-ph/157444-cherie-atilano-agriculture-move-awards>, accessed December 11, 2017

³ Belaro, Salvador, House Bill No. 4026, http://www.congress.gov.ph/legisdocs/basic_17/HB04026.pdf, Accessed December 11, 2017

⁴ Geronimo, Jee Y., Rappler, "DA wants agriculture subjects in elementary, high school", <https://www.rappler.com/nation/177103-da-agriculture-subjects-basic-education>, accessed December 11, 2017

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**AN ACT MANDATING A CLASS ON AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES IN PUBLIC
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

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

1 SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy* – It is the State's policy to promote
2 industrialization and full employment based on sound agricultural development and agrarian
3 reform, through industries that make full of efficient use of human and natural resources,
4 and which are competitive in both domestic and foreign markets. It is also the State's policy
5 to establish, maintain, and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of
6 education relevant to the needs of the people and society.

7
8 SECTION. 2. *Agricultural Classes in Public Elementary Schools* – Pursuant to the
9 above policy, there shall be established, under the supervision of the Department of
10 Education, classes on agriculture for all students who will enroll in all public elementary
11 schools in the Philippines.

12
13 SECTION 3. *Objectives*. – Classes on agriculture shall aim to develop an interest
14 and to develop maximum basic competencies for elementary students in public schools to
15 prepare them for possible careers in the agricultural sector and to make them valuable
16 assets to the community and the nation in the future.

17
18 SECTION 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*. - The Department of Education
19 (DepEd), in consultation with the Department of Agriculture (DA), within ninety (90) days
20 from the effectivity of this Act, shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the
21 effective implementation of the provisions of this Act.

22
23 SECTION 5. *Appropriations*. – The funds necessary to carry out the provision of this
24 Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment
25 into law and thereafter.

26
27 SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause*. - All laws, parts of laws, decrees, presidential
28 issuances, proclamations, orders, ordinances, and administrative regulations in conflict with
29 the provisions of this Act are hereby amended, modified or repealed accordingly.

30
31 SECTION 7. *Effectivity*. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
32 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

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35 *Approved,*

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