

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. 8477



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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

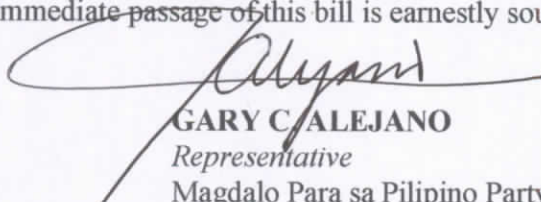
For so long, agriculture has been associated with the production of essential food crops. At present, agriculture above and beyond farming includes forestry, dairy, fruit cultivation, poultry, bee keeping, etc. Today, processing, marketing, and distribution of crops and livestock products etc. are all acknowledged as part of current agriculture. Thus, agriculture could be referred to as the production, processing, promotion and distribution agricultural products. Agriculture plays a critical role in the entire life of a given economy and it is considered the backbone of the many economies. In addition to providing food and raw material, agriculture also provides employment opportunities to very large percentage of the population.

Despite this real and apparent importance of agriculture, R.A. 7160 limits the mandatory appointment of agriculturists to ensure effective representation of the agricultural sector in local government planning and coordination in the provincial level. For city and municipal governments, appointment of an agriculturist is allowed, but not necessarily mandated.

Seeing that agriculture remains a vital sector in the country, the appointment of agriculturists should be deemed not as an option, but as a requirement demanded by the urgency and necessity of having one. Under this Act, cities and municipalities whose growth is primarily driven by its agriculture sector shall be mandated to appoint their respective municipal agriculturists.

The general interest of the agricultural sector in these localities should be a primary concern of the local government, so that it will be able to better determine the agricultural priorities of their constituencies, but only with a qualified agricultural expert can this be done.

In view of the foregoing, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


GARY C. ALEJANO

Representative

Magdalo Para sa Pilipino Party-List

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AN ACT

MANDATING THE APPOINTMENT OF MUNICIPAL AGRICULTURISTS IN MUNICIPALITIES WHERE AGRICULTURE IS A SIGNIFICANT INDUSTRY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 443 AND 482 (A) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991

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

1 **SEC.1.** Section 443 of Republic Act No. 7160, as amended, otherwise known as
2 Local Government Code of 1991, is hereby amended to read as follows:
3

4 **“Section 443. Officials of the Municipal Government.-**
5

6 (a) There shall be in each municipality a municipal mayor, a municipal vice-
7 mayor, sangguniang bayan members, a secretary to the sangguniang
8 bayan, a municipal treasurer, a municipal assessor, a municipal accountant,
9 a municipal budget officer, a municipal planning and development
10 coordinator, a municipal engineer/building official, a municipal health
11 officer and a municipal civil registrar.
12

13 (b) In addition thereto, the mayor may appoint a municipal administrator, a
14 municipal legal officer, a municipal agriculturist, a municipal social
15 welfare and development officer, a municipal architect, and a municipal
16 information officer: **PROVIDED, THAT INsofar AS**
17 **MUNICIPALITIES WHERE AGRICULTURE IS A SIGNIFICANT**
18 **INDUSTRY OR WHERE THE MAIN LIVELIHOOD IS**
19 **AGRICULTURAL IN NATURE, THE APPOINTMENT OF A**
20 **MUNICIPAL AGRICULTURIST SHALL BE MANDATORY.”**
21

22 **SEC.2.** Section 482 (a) of R.A. No. 7160, as amended, is hereby amended to read as
23 follows:
24

25 **“Section 482. Qualifications, Powers and Duties.**
26

27 (a) No person shall be appointed agriculturist unless he is a citizen of the
28 Philippines, a resident of the local government unit concerned, of good

1 moral character, a holder of a college or university and a first grade civil
2 service eligible or its equivalent. He must have practiced his profession in
3 agriculture or acquired experience in a related field for at least five (5)
4 years in the case of the provincial and city agriculturist, and three (3) years
5 in the case of the municipal agriculturist.
6

7 The position of the agriculturist shall be mandatory for the
8 provincial government and optional for the city and municipal
9 governments: **PROVIDED, THAT INsofar AS MUNICIPALITIES**
10 **WHERE AGRICULTURE IS A SIGNIFICANT INDUSTRY OR**
11 **WHERE THE MAIN LIVELIHOOD IS AGRICULTURAL IN**
12 **NATURE, THE APPOINTMENT OF A MUNICIPAL**
13 **AGRICULTURIST SHALL BE MANDATORY.”**
14

15 **SEC.3. Implementing Agency.-** The Department of Interior and Local Government
16 (DILG) and the Department of Agriculture (DA), in coordination with local government
17 units, shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementations
18 of this Act.
19

20 **SEC.4. Appropriations Clause. -** The amount necessary for the effective
21 implementation of this Act shall be included in the general appropriations Act of the year
22 following its enactment.
23

24 **SEC.5. Repealing Clause.-** Other relevant provisions of the R.A. No. 7160, insofar as
25 the appointment of agriculturist is concerned, and any law, decree, executive order, and rules
26 and regulations, or portions thereof not consistent with this Act are hereby amended
27 accordingly.
28

29 **SEC.6. Separability Clause.-** Should any part or provisions of this Act be declared
30 unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining parts or provisions not affected thereby shall
31 remain in full force and effect.
32

33 **SEC.7. Effectivity.-** This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following the
34 completion of its publication either in the Official Gazette or in newspaper of general
35 circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,