

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. 8686



Introduced by Representative **John Marvin "Yul Servo" C. Nieto**

EXPLORATORY NOTE:

As a manifestation of support to this timely piece of legislation, this representation respectfully refiles this bill, which has constantly been receiving support from the past and present Congress.

It is the policy of the State to introduce a comprehensive national road network that will support key agricultural and fishery production areas to ensure that the transport of produce and goods will be efficient, cost-effective, and convenient with the aim of attaining food security and improving the lives of farmers and fisher folks.

This measure seeks to consolidate all farm-to-market road (FMR) development programs of the government into one comprehensive, time-bound program that will ensure the completion of priority road infrastructure projects leading to key agricultural and fishery production areas all over the country.

In view of the forgoing, the paassge of this measure is earnestly sought.


JOHN MARVIN "YUL SERVO" C. NIETO

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**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
AGRICULTURAL ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE (AGRI) NETWORK PROGRAM**

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "AGRI Network Act of 2018."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - The State shall develop a comprehensive national road network that will support key agricultural and fishery production areas to ensure that the transport of produce and goods will be efficient, cost-effective, and convenient with the aim of attaining food security and improving the lives of farmers and fisher folks.

SECTION 3. Agricultural Road Infrastructure (AGRI) Network Plan. - The Department of Agriculture (DA) shall submit to Congress and to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act a National Agricultural Road Infrastructure Network Plan, hereinafter referred to as the Plan, that will contain all priority road projects - to include repair, rehabilitation and construction - that shall connect key agricultural, livestock, and fishery production areas to national primary and secondary roads. High priority will be given to road projects that will connect multiple production areas and areas that are major producers of rice, corn, coconut, livestock - primarily cows, swine, and poultry - and seafood.

Provided, that the DA shall ensure that a nationwide consultation with various government agencies, local government units, farmer and fisher folk groups, private sector, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders will be conducted during the preparation of the Plan.

Provided further, that the Plan shall be reviewed and updated every three (3) years from the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 4. Implementation. – The AGRI Network Program, which shall cover the implementation of the Plan and hereinafter referred to as the Program, shall be implemented within a period of ten (10) years.

The DA shall oversee and manage the Program and develop a system to monitor its implementation. The Department shall make periodic reports to the Congressional Oversight Committee on Agricultural Road Infrastructure Network Program.

The DPWH shall lead in the implementation of the road projects under the Program. The DPWH shall formulate a strategy to ensure the timely implementation of projects, such as, but not limited to the, clustering and geo-tagging of projects for cost efficiency in the procurement thereof and effective management and implementation of projects.

SECTION 5. Appropriations. — Annual appropriations for the Program shall include the amounts necessary to support the funding requirements of all road infrastructure projects included in the Plan.

The Program shall be based on a ceiling, for the first five (5) years, of One Hundred Billion Pesos (PhP 100,000,000,000.00) Provided, That hereafter this amount may be increased commensurate to the increase in the Gross National Product (GNP).

SECTION 6. Right of Way and Road Maintenance. — All right-of-way issues including the payment to property owners shall be adequately addressed and settled by the concerned Local Government Unit (LGU) where the road project is located. The LGU shall also provide counterpart for the maintenance of the roads upon completion and turn-over.

SECTION 7. Incorporation of Existing Farm-to-Market Road Projects. — Continuing appropriations for all FMR projects being funded and implemented by the national government prior to the effectivity of this Act, except those funded under the Grassroots Participatory Budgeting (GPB) program or any other similar program, and are included in the Plan shall be considered part of the Program's appropriation as provided in Section 5.

New FMR programs and projects to be funded through foreign assistance after the effectivity of this Act are encouraged to be based on the Plan.

SECTION 8. Congressional Oversight Committee. – There is hereby created a Congressional Oversight Committee to monitor and oversee the

implementation of the provisions of this Act. The Committee shall be composed of six (6) members from the Senate and six (6) members from the House of Representatives with the Chairpersons of Agriculture and Food of both houses as Joint Chairpersons. The five (5) members from each chamber shall be designated by the Senate President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives respectively. The minority shall have at least two (2) representatives from both chambers.

SECTION 9. Sunset Review. - As the need arises, or within ten (10) years after its effectivity, the Congressional Oversight Committee shall conduct a sunset review of this Act. The term "sunset review" shall mean a systematic evaluation of the accomplishments and impact of this Act, as well as the performance and organizational structure of its implementing agencies, for purposes of determining remedial legislations.

SECTION 10. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The Secretary of Agriculture shall issue rules and regulations as he/she may deem necessary for the implementation of this Act.

SECTION 11. Repealing Clause. — All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 12. Separability Clause. — If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected hereby shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 13. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,