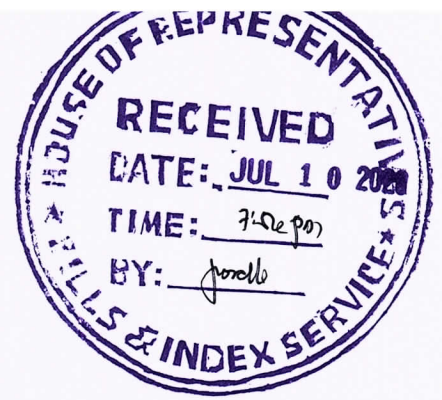


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7085



Introduced by **ANG PROBINSYANO**
Party-List Representative Alfred Delos Santos

EXPLANATORY NOTE

1 "The State shall recognize the right of farmers, farmworkers, and
2 landowners, as well as cooperatives, and other independent farmers'
3 organizations to participate in the planning, organization, and
4 management of the program, and shall provide support to
5 agriculture through appropriate technology and research, and
6 adequate financial, production, marketing, and other support
7 services." (ARTICLE XIII, SECTION 5)

8
9 Despite being a predominantly agricultural country and the emphasis of the
10 advancement of the agriculture sector within the Constitution, the number of
11 Filipinos entering the agriculture industry is decreasing. Although the second-
12 largest labor sector in the country, we are seeing a sharp decline in the numbers
13 of those who are interested to pursue a career or a profession in this field as
14 evidenced in the average age of farmers at 60 years old.

15
16 A lot of other factors and issues are bringing about the difficult situation that
17 the agriculture sector is facing in the Philippines. The recent crisis brought about
18 by the COVID-19 tested our country's ability to supply food for countrymen.
19 Moreover, the continued rise in our country's population has become a more
20 relevant concern as the challenge of food security considering the current state
21 of our agricultural sector's capacity.

22
23 With the aforementioned issues, it is only a logical response to invest in the
24 agriculture sector so that we can address these issues and at the same time
25 promote rural development and agricultural research, and establish food
26 security capable of supporting our country without relying too much on import
27 from other countries.
28

1 Investing in our youth is crucial in achieving this goal. There remains a huge
2 problem in inviting the youth to partake in this endeavor because of the current
3 situation of the agriculture sector and the better opportunities that other sectors
4 offer.

5
6 In order to engage the youth in this undertaking, we need to revitalize the image
7 of agriculture and provide avenues for growth and innovation within the
8 agriculture sector through education by giving out scholarships and revisiting
9 education curricula and various programs involving training, research,
10 partnerships, and business enterprises.

11
12 The youth's ability as problem-solvers and changemakers will make this
13 endeavor possible and move the nation forward in advancing the state of the
14 agriculture sector. Through this bill, we are creating a supportive environment
15 for the youth to be able to find innovative possibilities where they create a future
16 not only for themselves but also for their communities and the whole of the
17 Filipino society. As the Constitution provides:

18
19 "The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building
20 and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual,
21 intellectual, and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth
22 patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in
23 public and civic affairs." (ARTICLE II, SECTION 13)

24 With the future of our country in mind, the passing of this bill is utmostly requested.



ALFRED C. DELOS SANTOS

Representative, Ang Probinsyano Partylist

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Introduced by **ANG PROBINSYANO**
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AN ACT PROMOTING AGRICULTURE AMONG FILIPINO YOUTH

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Kabataan Para
2 sa Pagsasaka Act of 2020.”

3
4 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – In recognition of the huge role of
5 agriculture and the youth in developing our country, it is the policy of the State
6 to promote and support endeavors that will facilitate sustainable agricultural
7 development and provide avenues for active involvement and dignified status
8 within the agricultural sector.

9
10 Towards this end, the goals and objectives of this Act are to:

- 11
12 1. Recognize the crucial role of the agricultural sector as a fundamental
13 aspect of economic growth and societal development
14 2. Rebuild and recreate a new, lively, and positive image of agriculture,
15 especially within the youth sector
16 3. Revitalize the youth’s interest in agriculture through various
17 programs and institutional linkages and partnerships
18 4. Adapt and modernize education curriculum on agriculture to
19 include leadership, management, and business subjects
20 5. Promote and support research and development within the
21 agriculture sector to find ways to advance sustainable development
22 and adapting to climate change
23

24 SECTION 3. *National Network of Agricultural Educational Institutions.* – To
25 facilitate institutional connections for the implementation of the Act, there shall

1 be an establishment of a national network of higher education institutions that
2 offers agricultural courses.

3
4 SECTION 4. *Higher Education Scholarships.* – The Commission on Higher
5 Education (CHED) shall establish and allocate funds for a priority scholarship
6 program for those who will be taking up undergraduate, Masters, and Doctoral
7 programs related to agriculture. The Commission on Higher Education (CHED)
8 shall provide subsidies to higher education institutions in order to increase
9 enrollment on agriculture-related programs.

10
11 Further, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), in cooperation with the
12 National Network of Agricultural Educational Institutions in Section 3, shall
13 coordinate and link with universities abroad who are offering postgraduate
14 programs on agriculture and create a continuing education program primarily
15 intended for instructors of higher education institutions on agriculture to
16 improve on teaching and research.

17
18 SECTION 5. *Revising Higher Education Curricula on Agriculture.* –
19 Education curriculum on agriculture courses in higher education institutions
20 shall undergo revision to include other subjects that respond to the needs of the
21 labor market and capacitate enterprise and development in the agricultural
22 sector.

23
24 This will include subjects such as, but not limited to:

- 25 1. Agribusiness and Entrepreneurship
- 26 2. Leadership and Management in Agriculture Industry
- 27 3. Agriculture and Information and Communication Technology (ICT)
- 28 4. Agricultural Research and Technology
- 29 5. Legal Agricultural Framework
- 30 6. Agriculture and Rural Development

31
32 Further, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall spearhead a
33 consultative committee with members from the Department of Agriculture (DA),
34 Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), higher education institutions, and other
35 relevant stakeholders in the process of revising higher education curriculum
36 pertaining to agriculture.

37
38 SECTION 6. *Vocational Training Programs.* – To promote further
39 enhancement of agricultural skills of rural youth, the Department of Agriculture
40 - Agricultural Training Institute (DA-ATI) and the Technical Education and Skills
41 Development Authority (TESDA) shall create enhanced training programs to
42 include leadership, capacity building, and business management aspects and
43 training of professional instructors to meet the needs of the labor market and
44 improve agribusiness management and opportunities.

Further, the Department of Agriculture - Agricultural Training Institute (DA-ATI) and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), in partnership with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), shall create apprenticeship opportunities for farmers, especially the youth, with rural agricultural micro, small, and medium enterprise (MSMEs) to enhance entrepreneurial skills.

SECTION 7. *Internship.* – The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) shall connect with various institutions such as the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, to provide internship opportunities for individuals, especially students, who are involved with the agriculture sector.

SECTION 8. *Establishment of Youth Resource Centers for Agriculture.* – In order to provide the youth with various resources on the study and practical application of agriculture and other various agri-related programs, the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), in cooperation with the National Network of Agricultural Educational Institutions, shall establish at least (1) main Youth Resource Center for Agriculture in each province and if possible, an annex center in each higher education institution providing agricultural courses.

The Youth Resource Center for Agriculture shall contain training materials, educational resources, applicable technological equipment, and other relevant resources related to the study and further appreciation of the agriculture sector.

Further, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and the Department of Information and Communication Technology (DICT) shall be responsible for creating technological services in these Centers to capacitate ICT learning for youth with regards to agriculture.

SECTION 9. *Youth for Agriculture Council.* – There shall be a youth council under the supervision of National Youth Council (NYC) made to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Act and propose further programs that respond to the aim to invite the youth in the agriculture sector. There shall be seven (7) members which shall include students-representatives of various higher educational institutions offering agricultural courses.

SECTION 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulation.* – Within three (3) months from the effectivity of this Act, the Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education, Director-General of the TESDA, National Director of the DA-Agricultural Training Institute, Undersecretary for Department of Agriculture - Administration, Agribusiness, and Marketing, and Regional Engagement, and the Undersecretary of the Department of Agrarian Reform Foreign Assisted and Special Projects Office (FASPO) shall form an ad hoc committee composed of two

1 representatives from each of their agencies to formulate the implementing Rules
2 and Regulations of this Act. Two representatives from the Agriculture Committee
3 of both Houses of Congress shall join the meetings as observers.
4

5 SECTION 11. *Appropriations.* – An initial fund of P500 million shall be
6 appropriated for the immediate implementation of this Act. Thereafter, such
7 sums as may be necessary for the continued operations and maintenance of the
8 programs shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.
9

10 SECTION 12. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act is
11 held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions or parts unaffected
12 shall remain in full force and effect.
13

14 SECTION 13. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, presidential
15 decrees or issuances, letters of instruction, administrative orders, rules, and
16 regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
17 repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.
18

19 SECTION 14. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
20 after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general
21 circulation.
22

23 Approved,