



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila



Eighteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7242

Introduced by Representative Deogracias Victor “DV” B. Savellano

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 5, Article XIII of the Constitution states, that “*the State shall provide support to agriculture through appropriate technology and research, and adequate financial, production, marketing, and other support services.*”

Paragraph (b), Section 17 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the “*Local Government Code of 1991*,” also provides the basic services and facilities for barangays, municipalities, provinces and cities which include agricultural and fisheries support in order for farmers and fisherfolk in these local government units to be self-reliant and productive.

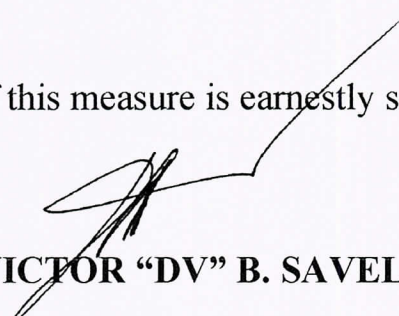
Notwithstanding these constitutional and statutory provisions, poverty still proliferates in the countryside. One of the long-standing challenges in the agriculture and fisheries sector which continues to hamper productivity is the weak extension service which slows down the diffusion and adoption of farm practices and technologies that are applicable to a specific area and responsive to the needs of farmers and fisherfolk. Inefficiencies in the delivery of extension services can be attributed to inadequate funds and programs for the agricultural and fisheries development and lack of human resources of LGUs to effectively implement and monitor the program.

The strategy of delegating powers and responsibilities to LGUs provides opportunities for responsive and high-quality services, as well as the possibility of strengthened accountability and broad public participation in the delivery of extension services. In order to have an efficient and successful planning, budgeting and implementation of programs and projects in agriculture and fisheries, it is essential to mandate all provinces, cities and municipalities that

rely mainly in agriculture and fisheries to prepare a detailed Agricultural Development Plans and Programs to enhance the capacity of small farmers and fisherfolk to adopt better agricultural and fishery technologies.

Hence, this bill seeks to mandate all provinces, cities and municipalities that rely mainly on agriculture or fisheries to set aside ten percent (10%) of its annual budget for development projects on programs, activities and services for agriculture and fisheries development. These projects aim to improve the economic and social well-being of farmers and fisherfolk, enhance food security, increase rural employment, and promote sustainable development in the countryside.

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



DEOGRACIAS VICTOR "DV" B. SAVELLANO



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Eighteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7242

Introduced by Representative Deogracias Victor “DV” B. Savellano

AN ACT

**MANDATING ALL PROVINCES, CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES THAT
RELY MAINLY ON AGRICULTURE OR FISHERIES TO SET ASIDE TEN
PERCENT (10%) OF ITS ANNUAL BUDGET FOR DEVELOPMENT
PROJECTS ON PROGRAMS, ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES FOR
AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT**

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

SECTION 1. **Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “*Agriculture
and Fisheries Development Act.*”

SEC. 2. **Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the
State to promote and accelerate the development and modernization of
agriculture and fisheries to enhance the economic and social well-being of
farmers and fisherfolks. The State, with the active participation of local
government units (LGUs), shall institute policies that improve food security,
increase farmers and fisherfolk income, increase rural employment, and
promote sustainable development in the countryside.

1 The State also acknowledges that a healthy and dynamic agricultural sector
2 is an important foundation of rural development which generates strong
3 linkages to other economic sectors. Towards this end, the State shall develop a
4 comprehensive program on agriculture and fisheries development in all
5 provinces, cities and municipalities that rely mainly on agriculture and fisheries.

6 SEC. 3. **Coverage.** – This Act applies to all provinces, cities and
7 municipalities that rely mainly on agriculture or fisheries excluding Metro
8 Manila and highly urbanized cities and independent component cities in the
9 provinces except when a highly urbanized city or independent component city
10 of a province voluntarily opts to be covered under this Act. The Department of
11 Agriculture (DA) shall, in coordination with the Department of Environment
12 and Natural Resources, issue the necessary guidelines in the determination of
13 provinces, cities and municipalities covered by this Act.

14 For purposes of this Act, a province, city or municipality is considered to
15 rely mainly on agriculture or fisheries unit if at least fifty percent (50%) of its
16 land area is being utilized for agricultural or fisheries purposes.

17 SEC. 4. **Agricultural Development Plans and Programs.** – a) Each
18 province, city or municipality that rely mainly on agriculture or fisheries shall
19 prepare their agricultural development plans and programs (ADPP) identifying
20 the total land area devoted to agriculture, political subdivision, population,
21 topography, climate, geological landforms, irrigation systems, existing general

land use, trade and commerce, agricultural facilities, major crops grown, livestock and poultry, and fisheries.

b) The ADPP must also identify factors challenging productivity like rapid urbanization, land conversion from agricultural to industrial or commercial purposes, stiff competition of similar products coming from nearby provinces, inadequate institutional support and technical assistance to local farmers, limited access to affordable credit or program financing, difficulty of farmers to obtain agricultural inputs, absence of all-weather farm to market roads in hinterland farming communities hampering the movement of people and goods, adverse climate effects like the inability of the province, city or municipality to absorb heavy flooding, landslides or soil erosion, and drought.

c) The ADPP must also include strategies to increase agricultural productivity such as adopting soil restoration and anti-soil erosion practices in farming activities, promotion of agricultural technologies that are environmentally friendly, promotion of organic agricultural practices and technologies, strict implementation of pertinent laws governing the conversion of agricultural lands to non-agricultural uses, construction of new farm-to-market roads (FMRs) and improvement of existing ones to encourage land owners to cultivate idle lands, construction of post-harvest facilities and common service facilities, construction or rehabilitation and upgrading of existing irrigation systems, promotion of value-adding technologies to selected

1 agricultural commodities where applicable, establishment of reservoirs for deep
2 well irrigation systems, and improvement of the entrepreneurial skills of
3 farmers.

4 d) The ADPP must likewise include activities for the enhancement
5 and production of disease-free planting materials, support for crops, livestock
6 and poultry, and fishery production, upgrade of strategically located plant
7 nurseries to supply location-specific crop varieties, promote vegetable
8 production through clustering, and create alternative agriculture-based
9 livelihood projects.

10 e) The ADPP is divided into short-term and long-term programs. The
11 short-term program includes projects that are immediately provided to farmers
12 such as distribution of seeds, fingerlings, planting materials, plant nurseries,
13 farm tools and equipment, small or medium-sized storage facilities, small or
14 medium sized “*bagsakan ng gulay*” facilities, and other assistance necessary in
15 the day-to-day activities of the farmers and fisherfolk.

16 The long-term program includes agricultural infrastructure projects like
17 construction of farm-to-market roads, irrigation systems, large-sized post-
18 harvest facilities and such other infrastructure projects exceeding Ten million
19 pesos (P10,000,000.00) that are devoted to agriculture and fisheries. Long-term
20 programs and projects shall be submitted to the national government for
21 evaluation and eventual funding.

1 SEC. 5. *Allocation for Agriculture and Fisheries Development.* – All
2 provinces, cities and municipalities embraced under Section 3 of this Act shall
3 set aside ten percent (10%) of its annual budget for development projects on
4 programs, activities, and services for agriculture and fisheries development to
5 fund short-term programs and projects identified in their ADPP.

6 SEC. 6. *City or Municipal Agriculturists.* – The sangguniang panglungsod
7 or sangguniang bayan of a city or municipality considered to rely mainly on
8 agriculture or fisheries shall appoint a city or municipal agriculturist, establish
9 an office, create and hire personnel therefor, and strengthen the capacities of its
10 personnel for the effective implementation of their ADPP.

11 SEC. 7. *Responsibility of the Department of Agriculture (DA).* – The DA
12 shall be responsible for the promotion of agricultural and fisheries development
13 by providing the policy framework, public investments, and support services
14 including infrastructure support, research, development and extension, including
15 agri-business and market development services, regulation and policy planning.

16 SEC. 8. *Regional Agricultural Development Council (RADC).* – There is
17 hereby created, in every region, a regional agricultural development council,
18 composed of the following:

- 19 a) Regional director of the DA, as chairperson;
20 b) Regional director or a representative from the Regional Integrated
21 Agriculture Research Center, as vice-chairperson;

1 c) Regional director or a representative from the Regional Fisheries
2 Research Center;

3 d) Regional director or a representative from the Agricultural
4 Training Institute; and

5 e) All provincial governors, component city mayors, and presidents of
6 provincial mayors' league; as members.

7 SEC. 9. ***Functions.*** – The RADC of each region shall assist in the
8 preparation, monitoring and evaluation of the ADPP of all provinces, cities, and
9 municipalities under their jurisdiction.

10 The offices of the various regional agencies of the government shall, upon
11 request by the RADC, provide such technical support as may be required in the
12 discharge of their functions. The RADC shall meet as often as necessary but
13 not less than once a semester.

14 The regional field office of the DA shall act as the secretariat of the
15 RADC. Funds necessary for the RADC operations, project monitoring and
16 evaluation, and implementation of special projects shall be included in the
17 General Appropriations Act of the DA, subject to the usual auditing and
18 accounting rules and regulations.

19 SEC. 10. ***Provincial Agricultural Development Council (PADC).*** – There
20 is hereby created, in every province, a provincial agricultural development
21 council (PADC) composed of the following:

- a) Governor, as chairperson;
- b) Vice-governor, as vice-chairperson;
- c) Members of the sangguniang panlalawigan; and
- d) All city or municipal mayors within the province; as members.

The PADC shall monitor the formulation, development, and implementation of the ADPP of the province and the ADPP of all cities and municipalities within the province. The PADC shall submit an annual report to the RADC on or before June 30 of each year containing the accomplishment of the province and the consolidated accomplishment of all cities and municipalities within the province.

The office of the provincial agriculturist shall act as the secretariat of the PADC and all funds necessary for its operations shall be included in the annual budget of the province.

SEC. 11. ***City or Municipal Agricultural Development Council (CADC or MADC).*** – There is hereby created in every city or municipality covered by this Act, a city or municipal agricultural development council (CADC or MADC), composed of the following:

- a) City or municipal mayor, as chairperson;
 - b) City or municipal vice-mayor, vice-chairperson;
 - c) Members of the sangguniang panlungsod or sangguniang bayan;
- and

d) All barangay chairpersons within the city or municipality; as members.

The CADC or MADC shall formulate and implement their ADPP with measurable and time bounded annual goals, programs, activities and projects. The city or municipal mayor shall see the timeliness, transparency and accountability in the delivery of technical know-how, goods, and services to farmers and fisherfolks. The ADPP of each city or municipality shall be submitted to the PADC. An annual report containing accomplishment and impact of the programs shall be submitted to the PADC on or before March 31, of the succeeding year.

The office of the city or municipal agriculturist shall act as the secretariat of the CADC or MADC and all funds necessary for its operations shall be included in the annual budget of the city or municipality concerned.

SEC. 12. **Funding.** – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriation of the province, city or municipality concerned. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be funded from the allocated ten percent (10%) of the annual budget for development projects on programs, activities, and services for agriculture and fisheries development of each province, city or municipality concerned.

SEC. 14. **Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within ninety (90)

1 days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall, in
2 coordination with the Secretary of the Interior and Local Government,
3 formulate the implementing rules and regulations of this Act.

4 SEC. 15. **Repealing Clause.** – Sections 443(b) and 454(b) of Republic Act
5 No. 7160, also known as the “*Local Government Code of 1991*” are hereby
6 amended insofar as the appointment of municipal and city agriculturist for cities
7 and municipalities is concerned. All other laws, presidential decrees, executive
8 orders, ordinances, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof
9 inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

10 SEC. 16. **Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
11 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

12 Approved,