

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. B. No. 3190

Introduced by Representative Ralph G. Recto

AN ACT

DESIGNATING THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE AS THE *EX-OFFICIO* CHAIRPERSON OF THE GOVERNING BOARDS OF CHARTERED GOVERNMENT-OWNED OR -CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS ENGAGED IN ACTIVITIES RELATED TO AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD PRODUCTION

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The role of agricultural systems and infrastructure in a given society goes beyond food production. Agricultural and fisheries production also serves its function in employment generation, as well as in manufacturing and trade. Irrigation projects are frequently integrated into systems that generate electricity or supply water to households and industries. Farm-to-market roads that connect farms to markets and processing centers also link far-flung localities to urban centers. Maintenance of food buffer stocks are essential in managing inflation and responding to the adverse impact of natural calamities. As such, the regulation of agriculture-related activities is typically carried out not only to ensure the availability and accessibility of food but also to satisfy other socioeconomic and developmental objectives of government.

The realization of multiple and at times competing objectives make the regulation of the agricultural sector a less-than-straightforward affair. Agricultural agencies often have to balance the need to increase income and productivity of farming households with the need to stabilize food prices, raise government revenues and control government cash flows, among others. Government agencies in the agriculture sector are sometimes reorganized, with their supervision getting transferred from one agency to another depending on whether the current organizational setup fits the public sector priorities and paradigms of the incumbent administration.

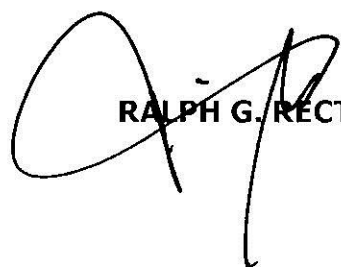
Government corporations in the agricultural sector, in particular, are prime targets for "top-level reorganization". In 2014, the supervision of the National Food Authority and the Philippine Coconut Authority, among other agencies, were transferred from the Department of Agriculture to the Office of the President to

enhance effectiveness and coordination of government interventions. Just four years later, the same agencies were "returned" to the agriculture department for practically the same rationale. While such transfer is grounded on noble intents and purposes, it could also result in fragmentation of government efforts especially in addressing complex and far-reaching policy concerns like food security and countryside poverty.

This bill seeks to address this concern by designating the Secretary of Agriculture as the *ex-officio* chairperson of the governing boards of all chartered government corporations engaged in activities related to agriculture, fisheries and food production. Such designation can provide stable leadership and streamlined supervision of agencies involved in agriculture, fisheries and food production. It will also afford a channel to harmonize various public sector interventions, particularly in production support, marketing and extension services, and research and development undertaking.

Ultimately, this bill seeks to contribute towards realizing the economic well-being of agricultural workers and food security for Filipino consumers.

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



RALPH G. RECTO

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

1 Section 1. *Designation of the Agriculture Secretary as the Ex-Officio*
2 *Chairperson of Government Corporations Engaged in Agriculture-, Fisheries-, or Food*
3 *Production-Related Activities.* – Any provision in the respective charters of
4 government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs) to the contrary
5 notwithstanding, the Secretary of Agriculture shall be designated as the *ex-officio*
6 Chairperson of the following entities:

7 (a) The Dairy Industry Board of the National Dairy Authority created under
8 Republic Act No. 7884, otherwise known as the "*National Dairy*
9 *Development Act of 1995*";

10 (b) The National Food Authority Council created under Presidential Decree No.
11 4, as amended, otherwise known as the "*National Grains Authority Act*";

12 (c) The Governing Board of the National Irrigation Administration created under
13 Republic Act No. 3601, as amended;

14 (d) The Governing Board of the National Tobacco Administration created under
15 Executive Order No. 245 s.1987;

16 (e) The Philippine Coconut Authority Board created under Presidential Decree
17 No. 232 s. 1973, as amended;

1 (f) The Board of Directors of the Philippine Fisheries Development Authority
2 created under Presidential Decree No. 977 s. 1976, as amended;

3 (g) Board of Trustees of the Philippine Rice Research Institute created under
4 Executive Order No. 1061 s. 1985, as amended; and

5 (h) The Sugar Board of the Sugar Regulatory Administration created under
6 Executive Order No. 18 s. 1986.

7 Sec. 2. *New designation for Incumbent Chairpersons.* – The incumbent
8 chairpersons of the government corporations identified under Section 1 of this Act
9 other than the Secretary of Agriculture shall be designated as Vice-Chairperson or
10 Member of the Governing Board.

11 Sec. 3. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion of this Act is declared invalid or
12 unconstitutional, the portions or provisions which are not affected thereby shall
13 continue to be in full force and effect.

14 Sec. 4. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, acts, decrees, executive orders, issuances,
15 and rules and regulations or parts thereof which are contrary to and inconsistent with
16 this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

17 Sec. 5. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its
18 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation or in the *Official*
19 *Gazette*.

Approved,