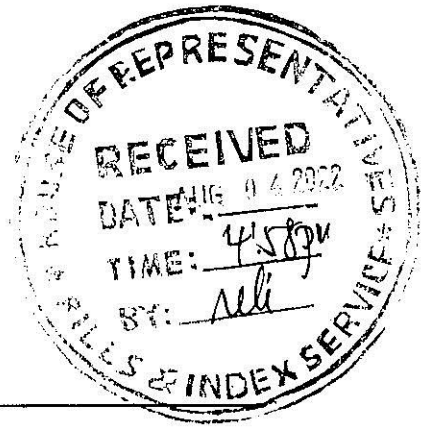


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3246



Introduced by REP. LEX ANTHONY CRIS A. COLADA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

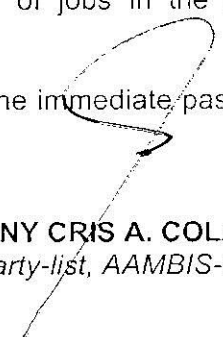
Consistent with the State policy of equal access to education, Republic Act No. 10618, otherwise known as the Rural Farm Schools Act was enacted on September 2013. Its main thrust was to provide an alternative mode of secondary education in the society and to encourage nonformal, formal and indigenous learning systems as well as self-learning, independent and out-of school study programs that will efficient respond to the community needs.

This bill seeks to amend Rural Farm Schools Act to further emphasize the need to a community-led projects and programs. It also aims to provide more tax incentives to encourage the establishment in every province, and if possible in every municipality to have at least one rural farm school nationwide. The amendments also seeks to clarify and enhance the provisions in its implementing rules and regulations.

With the support of the government to the establishments of rural farm schools act, it was expected to visualize more generation of jobs in the rural, achievement of food security and localize economic resilience.

In view of the foregoing, this representation seeks for the immediate passage of this bill.

LEX ANTHONY CRIS A. COLADA
Party-list, AAMBIS-OWA



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **3246**

Introduced by Rep. LEX ANTHONY CRIS A. COLADA

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATIONS OF THE RURAL
FARM SCHOOLS AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10618, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "RURAL FARM
SCHOOLS ACT"

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

SECTION 1. Section 2 of Republic Act No. 10618, otherwise known as the Rural Farm Schools Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. – For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

(a) *Alternative delivery mode* refers to the non-traditional education program recognized by the Department of Education (DepED) which applies a flexible learning philosophy and a curricular delivery program that includes nonformal and informal sources of knowledge and skills. An alternative delivery mode may include the use of facilitator-aided and interactive self-instructional print and audio-based learning materials, [video tapes,] face-to-face structured learning groups, semi-structured and unstructured discussions, one-on-one tutorials, study groups and self-learning groups, demonstration sessions, [home] FAMILY visits, mentoring and remediation.

b) Rural Farm School refers to a parallel learning system and an alternative delivery mode of secondary education. It provides for facilitative and experiential learning on the core subjects of the secondary education curriculum with focus on agri-fisheries, and ENTERPRISES, designed to address the HUMAN, SOCIAL, MORAL, SPIRITUAL AND PROFESSIONAL needs of children in rural, agricultural and fishing communities.

(c) x x x

(d) Private Rural Farm School refers to a rural farm school operated by a COMMUNITY-LED, private entity, a non-government organization or a farm association. COMMUNITY-LED REFERS TO THE ELEMENT OF INITIATIVE COMING FROM THE COMMUNITY-BASED ENTITIES MAKING EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH A FAMILY FARM SCHOOL (FFS).

(e) x x x

(f) x x x

x x x

(I) FAMILY ENTERPRISE PROJECT REFERS TO A STUDY OR RESEARCH SUBMITTED BY THE STUDENT WITHIN HIS/HER FORMATION IN THE FAMILY FARM SCHOOL TO IMPROVE THE FAMILY ENTERPRISE AND FAMILY INCOME. IT IS PRESENTED BY THE STUDENT AND HIS/HER FAMILY BEFORE A PANEL OF EXPERTS REPRESENTING RELEVANT PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS TO FURTHER IMPROVE THE PROJECT. THIS IS IMPLEMENTED AFTERWARDS BY THE STUDENT'S FAMILY.

SEC. 2. Section 4 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 4. *Establishment of Rural Farm Schools.* - Rural farm schools are hereby established to provide alternative delivery mode of secondary education. x x x

The DepED shall institutionalize high standards of quality assurance in rural farm schools. These standards shall involve prescribing guidelines and policies on the operation and management of rural farm schools. [as well as basic curricular content to ensure the credibility and academic integrity of rural farm schools.] THE CURRICULAR MUST PROVIDE FOR THE FAMILY FARM SCHOOL PEDAGOGY AND SYSTEM TO ENSURE THE CREDIBILITY AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY OF RURAL FARM SCHOOLS.

x x x"

SEC. 3. Section 11 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 11. *Skills Training and Extension Support.* – The DepED, the DAR, the DA, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) shall provide continuous technical skills training and provision of extension materials including, but not limited to, books, student workbooks, teaching session guides and other materials or equipment on the subjects offered, and other extension services to the tutors of PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY-LED/PRIVATE rural farm schools.

TESDA SHALL PRIORITIZE TO PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIP SLOTS FOR COMMUNITY-LED/PRIVATE RURAL FARM SCHOOLS WHO HAVE ACQUIRED TESDA ACCREDITATION."

SEC. 4. Section 14 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

SEC. 14. *Tax Exemption*S. – ALL IMPORTATIONS MADE BY THE RURAL FARM SCHOOLS SHALL BE EXEMPT FROM TAXES AND DUTIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10863, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CUSTOMS MODERNIZATION AND TARIFF ACT.

Any donation, contribution, bequest or grant which may be made to a rural farm school duly accredited under Section 12 of this Act shall be exempt from the donor's tax and the same shall be considered as allowable deduction from the gross income in the computation of the income tax of the donor in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC) of 1997, as amended: *Provided*, That the rural farm school has likewise been accredited by the Philippine Council for NGO Certification (PCNC).

ALL LANDS, BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS THAT ARE ACTUALLY, DIRECTLY AND EXCLUSIVELY USED FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES BY THE RURAL FARM SCHOOLS SHALL BE EXEMPT FROM PAYMENT OF REAL PROPERTY TAX.

SEC. 5. *Effectivity Clause*. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette*.