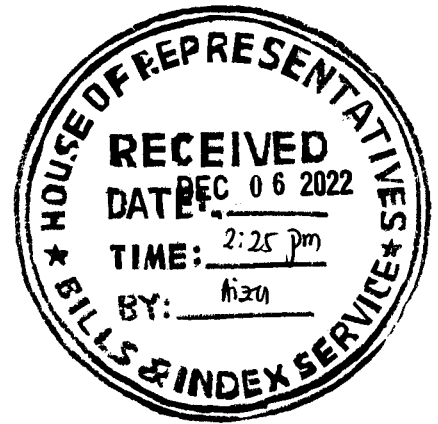


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **6535**



Introduced by Representative Gabriel H. Bordado, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is primarily an agricultural country, with agricultural land being 42.51% of its total land area. Agriculture plays a vital role not only in food security but also in providing economic growth and employment for many Filipinos. But despite the supposed geographical advantages and the abundance of natural resource that could have made the Philippines into one of the top agricultural countries in this region of the world, the sector is often overlooked. For the past six years, the agriculture sector's share to the Philippines GDP remains below 11%. Likewise, agricultural trade has been declining. And the country is left lagging behind neighboring countries in terms of knowledge and technological advances.

The agriculture industry in the Philippines is unable to realize its potential. Most of small farmers are left with outdated practices. And interest and focus on the sector seem to be diminishing as the country puts more emphasis on infrastructure building and urbanization.

Agriculture, when the sector is adequately and consistently supported and strengthened, could be the key to a robust and thriving economy. And in order to revitalize an often-neglected sector, there is a need to invite fresh and innovative ideas, especially from the youth, who will be future leaders and professionals in charge of building and sustaining a prosperous nation.

Therefore, this bill seeks to encourage young minds to discover and explore agriculture and its benefits and potentials through mandated agriculture classes in all public elementary schools in the country. Education for would-be farmers is already available, but igniting interest in the youth would enable us to further strengthen the agriculture sector in the country.

In light of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is requested.


GABRIEL H. BORDADO, JR.
3rd District, GAMARINES SUR

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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**AN ACT MANDATING A CLASS ON AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES IN
PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

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

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy - It is the State's policy to promote industrialization and full employment based on sound agricultural development and agrarian reform, through industries that make full of efficient use of human and natural resources, and which are competitive in both domestic and foreign markets. It is also the State's policy to establish, maintain, and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the people and society.

SECTION. 2. Agricultural Classes in Public Elementary Schools - Pursuant to the above policy, there shall be established, under the supervision of the Department of Education, classes on agriculture for all students who will enroll in all public elementary schools in the Philippines

SECTION 3. Objectives. - Classes on agriculture shall aim to develop an interest and to develop maximum basic competencies for elementary students in public schools to prepare them for possible careers in the agricultural sector and to make them valuable assets to the community and the nation in the future.

SECTION 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The Department of Education (DepEd), in consultation with the Department of Agriculture (DA), within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 5. Appropriations. - The funds necessary to carry out the provision of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

SECTION 6. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, and administrative regulations or parts thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 7. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,