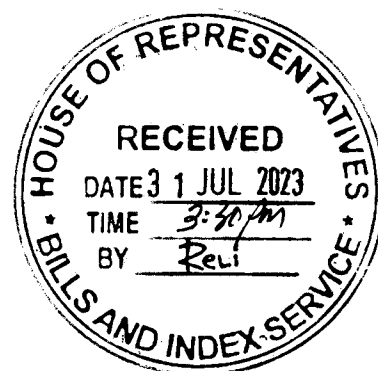




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila



Nineteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **8656**

Introduced by Representative Claude P. Bautista

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to provide for a transparent food security system, establishing for the purpose the Agriculture Information System (AIS).

Section 5, Article XIII (*Social Justice and Human Rights*) of the 1987 Constitution states that:

“Section 5. The State shall recognize the right of farmers, farmworkers, and landowners, as well as cooperatives, and other independent farmers’ organizations to participate in the planning, organization, and management of the program, and shall provide support to agriculture through appropriate technology and research, and adequate financial, production, marketing, and other support services.” (Underscoring supplied)

The aforecited constitutional provision emphasizes the importance of the agricultural sector as one of the main sources of livelihood among Filipinos. Presently, the thrust of the government to build a strong economy focuses on the attainment of adequate food supply at the core of food security issues. The concept of digitalization in agriculture is an appropriate technology to promote and fast-track digital platforms in the food value chain beneficial to both producers and consumers.

This bill mandates the Department of Agriculture to innovate transparency in the food security system by establishing a synchronized agriculture information system to enable the government to access accurate real time agricultural information. The AIS will serve as a dynamic online computer database where information on the demand for specific agricultural and fisheries commodities is gathered and uploaded simultaneously with the production data from farmers in every barangay. The AIS will also merge and synchronize agricultural data from different sources into a cohesive database designed to facilitate linkages from place of origin or from the farm to local and global markets.

The proposed measure is patterned after the concept of Municipal Agriculture Information System, Farmers Agriculture Resource Management System, popularly known as the "*MAIS FARMS*." It is a web-based system that stores, manages and processes information for tracking real-time agricultural production and marketing databases that link farmers and their products directly to premium markets and direct buyers. With real-time information our farmers have a better chance of being competitive players in the supply-chain.

An effective AIS provides policy makers, planners and economic players access to reliable and timely information that is necessary for policy development, emergency preparedness, planning, and decision making in the context of programme management.

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



CLAUDE P. BAUTISTA



Republic of the Philippines
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HOUSE BILL NO. **8656**

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1 **AN ACT**
2 **PROVIDING FOR A TRANSPARENT FOOD SECURITY SYSTEM,**
3 **ESTABLISHING FOR THE PURPOSE AN AGRICULTURE**
4 **INFORMATION SYSTEM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**
5

6 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in*
7 *Congress assembled:*
8
9

10 SECTION 1. ***Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “*Food Security*
11 *and Transparency System Act*”.

12 SEC. 2. ***Declaration of Policy.*** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State
13 to uplift the socioeconomic conditions of farmers and farm communities nationwide
14 in order to promote the welfare and empower the agricultural sector in the overall
15 development and progress of the country.

1 Towards this end, the State shall establish a comprehensive agriculture
2 information system for food transparency and agricultural production regulation, to
3 enable access to real-time agricultural information which may rationalize the
4 objectives and policy directives in the agricultural sector.

5 SEC. 3. **Objectives.** – The objectives of this Act are as follows:

6 (a) Provide an up-to-date database of agricultural and fisheries products in a
7 locality;

8 (b) Foster information sharing between farmers and potential buyers of
9 agricultural and fisheries products;

10 (c) Secure a market for agricultural and fisheries products and ensure
11 appropriate return of investment for farmers and fisheries stakeholders;

12 (d) Allow local government units to manage a secure and independent
13 platform that creates linkages for farmers and fisheries stakeholders;

14 (e) Provide data on specific commodities that are readily available in a
15 particular locality for purposes of production monitoring in order to meet the
16 demands of the market;

17 (f) Provide a secure, transparent, and independent modern web application
18 that may be accessed anytime by the public through a multi-platform support or
19 cross-platform support devices which may be linked to existing systems in the
20 Department of Agriculture (DA);

1 (g) Streamline training and seminars in the management of the operations;

2 (h) Monitor the use of inputs given by producers, buyers, and other segments
3 of the value-chain including information during post-harvest and processing; and

4 (i) Ensure that all forms of assistance given to local government units (LGUs),
5 registered cooperatives and other qualified individuals and organizations are
6 reflected.

7 SEC. 4. ***Food Transparency System.*** – The Department of Agriculture shall,
8 in coordination with the Department of Information and Communication
9 Technology (DICT) and Department of Science and Technology, establish an
10 Agriculture Information System (AIS) that serves as a dynamic online computer
11 database where information on the demand for specific agricultural and fisheries
12 commodities are gathered and uploaded simultaneously with the production data
13 from farmers in every barangay. The AIS merges and synchronizes agricultural data
14 from different sources into a cohesive database designed to facilitate linkages from
15 place of origin to local and global markets. The AIS also integrates with the existing
16 systems of the DA with the following features and contents:

17 (a) Province, municipal and city-wide identification of individual farmers, fish
18 breeders, and fisherfolk as well as qualified organizations which produce specific
19 farm and fisheries products, regardless of quantity;

20 (b) Crop harvest, volume, and type forecasting;

(c) Inventory of specific classification of crop varieties planted, livestock and type of fish raised in a particular LGU;

(d) Farmers and fisherfolk demographics, including age group, gender, ethnic group, income, seminars and trainings attended, and assistance received;

(e) Selected reports presented in both tabular and graphical form;

(f) Registry of farmers' contact details and farm location to facilitate market linkages;

(g) Search engine which allows farmers, fish breeders, and fisherfolk to look for potential and actual buyers and for such buyers to search for farms, farmers, and available agricultural and fisheries products; and

(h) Customizable dashboard which is accessible only to registered farmers and fisherfolk clients and contains the farmers' and fisherfolk's profile such as the area of the farm or fishpond, crops planted, livestock and type of fish raised.

SEC. 5. *Registration.* – All provinces, cities and municipalities shall encourage and facilitate the free registration of all farmers, fisherfolk, and buyers transacting within their respective areas in the AIS.

SEC. 6. *Functions and Responsibilities of Cities and Municipalities.* – The city and municipal governments shall exercise the following functions and responsibilities:

1 (a) The Municipal Agriculture Office shall, in coordination with the
2 Municipal Agrarian Reform Office, gather, encode, and consolidate all pertinent
3 data on the profile and demographics of farmers, fisherfolk as well as buyers;

4 (b) Monitor and control farm inputs including machineries and equipment;

5 (c) For municipalities and component cities, prepare and submit real-time data
6 under paragraphs (a) and (b) to the provincial agricultural office and to the respective
7 regional offices of the DA;

8 (d) For highly urbanized cities, submit real-time data to the respective regional
9 offices of the DA;

10 (e) Establish farmer and buyer linkages and act as a gatekeeper at the city or
11 municipal level in the nationwide marketing of agricultural products;

12 (f) Serve as the web administrator at the municipal or city level and be
13 responsible for integrating farm and fisheries locations into the geographic
14 integration system map; and

15 (g) Perform such other functions as may be necessary for the effective
16 implementation of this Act.

17 **SEC. 7. *Functions and Responsibilities of the Province.*** – The provincial
18 government shall have the following functions and responsibilities:

1 (a) The Provincial Planning and Development Office is the web administrator
2 at the provincial level and is responsible for integrating farm and fisheries data into
3 the geographic integration system maps for agriculture and fisheries;

4 (b) The Local Economic and Investment Promotion Office acts as the lead
5 administrator of the AIS in the provincial level and ensures the balance between
6 supply and demand;

7 (c) The Provincial Agricultural Office monitors the submission of reports
8 from municipalities and component cities, and ensures the completeness, accuracy,
9 and validity of data submitted by the municipal agricultural offices and the municipal
10 agrarian reform offices;

11 (d) Except for highly urbanized cities, prepare and submit such data to the
12 regional office of the DA; and

13 (e) Perform such other functions as may be necessary for the effective
14 implementation of this Act.

15 **SEC. 8. *Functions and Responsibilities of the Regional Office of the DA.* –**

16 The regional office of the DA shall have the following functions and
17 responsibilities:

18 (a) Integrate the data provided by the provinces and highly urbanized cities in
19 the existing information systems of the DA such as the National Farmers and
20 Fisheries Information System which is a web-based data collection system that

1 serves as a platform for updating the Registry System for Basic Sectors in
2 Agriculture;

3 (b) Collaborate with the regional offices of the Department of Trade and
4 Industry (DTI) in order to facilitate the availment of the various programs of the DTI
5 as well as strengthen market linkages through such programs;

6 (c) Recommend to the central office of the DA appropriate interventions in
7 the form of marketing, importation, and training assistance, as may be needed;

8 (d) Validate the data from the LGUs acting as the system administrator at the
9 regional level and provide real-time report to the central office of the DA; and

10 (e) Endorse for financial assistance the qualified fifth and sixth class
11 municipalities that may be given assistance in establishing and maintaining their
12 respective AIS.

13 **SEC. 9. *Functions and Responsibilities Of the Central Office of the DA.* –**

14 The central office of the DA shall have the following functions and responsibilities:

15 (a) Allocate funding for the integration of the AIS with existing information
16 systems;

17 (b) Coordinate with the DICT to upgrade, expand, and integrate its
18 information systems;

19 (c) Ensure that the implementation, appropriate verification processes and
20 information safeguards are in place pursuant to existing laws and regulations, in

1 coordination with the DICT, Philippine Statistics Authority, National Privacy
2 Commission, Department of the Interior and Local Government and the Department
3 of Science and Technology;

4 (d) Approve the prioritized interventions by the regional offices and allocate
5 corresponding funding;

6 (e) Collaborate with other agencies for the creation of market linkages in the
7 domestic and international markets; and

8 (f) Provide safety nets in the import and export of agricultural products in
9 order to support farmers.

10 SEC. 10. ***Duties of the Secretary.*** – The Secretary of Agriculture shall monitor
11 and ensure the compliance by all provinces, cities and municipalities as provided for
12 under this Act and shall, as soon as practicable, establish a centralized AIS that shall
13 integrate and link all existing information systems in the country.

14 SEC. 11. ***Reports.*** – The Secretary of Agriculture shall prepare and submit to
15 the President of the Philippines and both Houses of Congress an annual report on the
16 implementation of the program which contains the list of accomplishments and
17 recommendations for improvement.

18 SEC. 12. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within ninety (90) days
19 after the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall promulgate the
20 necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

1 SEC. 13. ***Appropriations.*** – The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the
2 Department's programs the establishment of the integrated and centralized AIS, the
3 funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The
4 LGUs shall provide the necessary funds for the establishment of an AIS in their
5 respective annual budgets.

6 SEC. 14. ***Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid
7 or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected by such declaration shall
8 remain in full force and effect.

9 SEC. 15. ***Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders,
10 rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of
11 this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

14 Approved,