HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **9941**

Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Many developing countries are undergoing a process of "structural transformation' in which large numbers of workers move from agriculture to other sectors and from self-employment into wage work. This may be a good indicator of economic development and progress but also poses an alarming consequence in the aspect of food security and sustainability where our farmers and fisherfolks are leaving the industry sector to work for a daily wage, with benefits and security. The continued occupational shift from farming to other industry will contribute to the drop in agricultural produce.

One of the reasons of the shift from agricultural farming to other industry wage earning is the standpoint of being physically insured against sickness, injury, death and retirement.

Before, most people in rural areas who were raised on a farm may feel most competent in this kind of environment. Also, working on a family farm often allows one to maintain close relations with parents and other family members. However, time has change and our farmers must look beyond to what they are having at the present.

The government's support to farmers and fisherfolks is through the protection of their produce, provision of facilities to process and store them. Our farmers are also offered financial assistance and grants to sustain the aftermath of calamities. It is just proper that we give our farmers and fisherfolks a security a pension and benefit scheme once they reached the retirement age.

This representation therefore files this measure that seeks to provide self-employment benefits to our farmers and fisherfolks by introducing a pension scheme and social security program for them.

In view of the above, the approval of this measure is earnestly sought.

SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.

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HOUSE BILL NO. **9941**

Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

AN ACT INTRODUCING A FARMERS' SELF-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS AND INCENTIVES PROGRAM, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF

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

SECTION 1. ***Short Title.*** This Act shall be known as the "Farmers' self-employment benefits and incentives Act of 2024."

SEC. 2. ***Declaration of Policy.*** It is hereby declared the policy of the State to:

a) Establish, develop and promote sound and viable social security schemes suitable to the needs of the people;

b) Strengthen the agriculture sector through sustainable efforts to end hunger, achieve food security, and improve the general health and nutrition of Filipinos;

c) Protect and promote the welfare of farmers and fisherfolk through policies that would abate their socio-economic risks and vulnerabilities with the end in view of improving their quality of life; and

d) Provide and institutionalize a comprehensive pension and social security program for the benefit of agricultural workers.

SEC. 3. ***Creation of the Farmer's Self-employment Benefits and Incentives Program.***

There is hereby established the "Farmer's Self-employment Benefits and Incentives Program" which shall provide farmers and fisherfolk a source of retirement income when they reach their retirement age.

The Program shall consist of the comprehensive benefits package under the social security program of the Social Security System (SSS) and relevant programs of the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC).

SEC. 4. ***Implementing Agencies.*** The PCIC and the SSS shall be the primary implementing agencies of the provisions of this Act. They shall perform the following duties and functions:

a) The SSS and PCIC shall tap the expertise of other relevant government offices in the formulation of the objectives, targets, and approaches under the Program.

b) The PCIC shall manage the registration system of eligible agricultural workers under the Registry system for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA) and maintain the required operational reports.

c) The SSS shall manage the funds allocated and the social security and pension scheme of the Program and maintain the required actuarial and financial reports.

d) The PCIC and the SSS shall perform other duties and functions necessary in the efficient and effective implementation of this Act. The PCIC and the SSS shall collaborate with and secure the technical assistance of the DA in all stages of implementation of this Act.

The DA shall ensure that the objectives of the Program are met and shall evaluate and monitor the Program's contribution to the productivity of the agricultural sector and the improvement of the quality of life of farmers and fisherfolk.

SEC. 5. ***Appropriations.*** The amount necessary to carry out the initial implementation of this Act shall be drawn from the savings of the National Government. Thereafter, the funds necessary for the continuous implementation of the program shall be sourced from ten percent (10%) of the total annual duties collected from the importation of agricultural products. The supplemental amount necessary for its implementation shall be included in the annual appropriations of the DA.

SEC. 6. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).*** Within ninety (90) days from the date of the effectivity of this Act, the PCIC shall, in consultation with the DA, SSS, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and the Department of Finance (DOF), formulate the IRR for the proper implementation of this Act.

SEC. 7. ***Separability Clause.*** If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 8. ***Repealing Clause.*** All laws, orders, decrees, rules and regulations, and other parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. ***Effectivity.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication either in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,