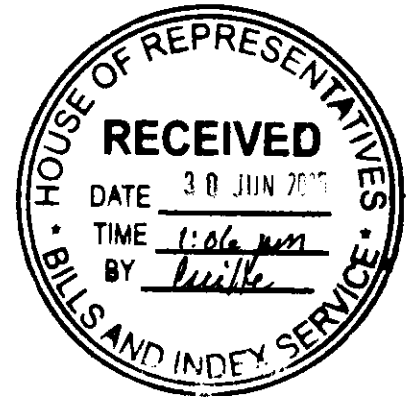




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 294



Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE ALYSSA MICHAELA "MICA" M. GONZALES

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE CONSOLIDATION OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS,
TITLING OF UNTITLED AGRICULTURAL LANDS, PROVIDING FOR POST- HARVEST
FACILITIES TO RICE FARMERS, ESTABLISHING IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM TO LAND
OWNER/FARMER AND AGRICULTURAL TENANTS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Agriculture plays a significant role in the Philippine economy. This is measured by the valuation of the output of the agricultural sector as percent in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). About 40% of Filipino workers are involved in agriculture, and that sector contributes an average of 20% to our GDP. The country's main agricultural crops are rice, corn, coconut, sugarcane, banana, and abaca.

The Philippine Government has recognized the dismal performance of the agricultural sector despite its contribution to the country's GDP, which was attributed to external factors, such as extreme weather conditions and poor adoption of technological advancement in the agricultural sector. Other long-standing issues such as limited access to credit, lack of sufficient research and development, insufficient governmental subsidy, and inadequate post-harvest facilities also impede Philippine agricultural development.

The proposed bill intends to address problems of the agricultural sector by consolidating all agricultural lands in the Philippines on a per province basis, for ease of profiling; initiate a comprehensive land titling of agricultural areas; and strengthen post-harvest facility for agricultural development.

Under this bill, the Department of Agriculture, in collaboration with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources–Land Management Bureau, shall be tasked to consolidate agricultural lands within the Philippines and initiate titling of such lands.

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

REP. ALYSSA MICHAELA "MICA" M. GONZALES
3rd District, Pampanga



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

Section 1. Title. – This Act shall be known as “**Agricultural Support Act**”.

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared as national policy to:

- a) Promote agricultural and rural development through the comprehensive consolidation of agricultural lands in the country which would help the Department of Agriculture in basic profiling of land owners and tenants;
- b) Increase agricultural output and production by providing an efficient post-harvest facility, equipment, implements, and machinery to rice farmers; and
- c) Advance the development of the agricultural sector and provide a systematic approach in communal farming to sustain the country's food security and stability.

Section 3. Objective and Mandate. – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Land Management Bureau, hereinafter referred to as the Bureau, shall undertake a ten (10) year program for the purpose of mapping, surveying, consolidating, and titling of all untitled agricultural land in the entire Philippines on a per province undertaking. The Bureau shall :

- a) Serve as the technical and administrative secretariat of the program;
- b) Undertake research, development and extension of appropriate and cost-efficient system in the mapping, surveying, and consolidating of all agricultural lands in the Philippines;
- c) Formulate and implement a comprehensive national titling program for agricultural lands; and
- d) Prepare a comprehensive work program for the consolidation and titling of all agricultural lands.

Section 4. Accelerated Titling of Agricultural Land. – The Bureau shall have the following priorities and guidelines in the conduct of mapping, surveying, consolidation, and titling of agricultural lands:

- a) Conduct an inventory of all agricultural lands in the Philippines, whether titled or untitled;

- b) List the priority of proposed pilot provinces that can be used as a benchmark for comprehensive mapping, surveying, consolidation and titling;
- c) Implement such program in pilot provinces to determine the Bureau's capability in undertaking the program for the entire country; and
- d) Draw-up a work program that is realistic, achievable, and annually target specific regions that can be subjected to the program.

Section 5. *Selection Of Qualified Beneficiaries.* – On a nationwide basis, the Department of Agriculture shall select qualified beneficiaries of the program using a standardized targeting system. It shall conduct a regular revalidation of beneficiary targeting every three (3) years. The Department of Agriculture shall provide such programs, technical support, including capacity building and monitoring in the implementation of this Act.

Section 6. *Establishment of Post Harvest Facility, Equipment, and Machineries.* The Department of Public Works and Highways, in collaboration with Department of Agriculture and farmer cooperatives shall establish state-of-the-art rice milling facilities and palay drying equipment in every province. Also, the Department of Trade and Industry in cooperation with Department of Agriculture and farmer cooperatives shall provide state-of-the-art agricultural equipments and machineries to aid local farmers in producing a high variety of rice.

Section 7. *The Land Owner / Farmer and Agricultural Tenant Identification System.* The identification system herein referred to as the Agricultural Identification System is hereby established as an economic tool towards the effective implementation of the profiling system in the agricultural sector.

Section 8. *The Land Owner / Farmer and Agricultural Tenant Identification Card.* Every Land Owner of Agricultural Land and Agricultural Tenant is mandated to have a non-transferable Identification Card to be named and known as "Agri ID " that shall have a validity of Five (5) years. The Agri ID shall be made of tamper proof security material. It shall have on its face the imprinted photograph, name, birthdate, date of issue, signature of the holder, a corresponding serial number and such other necessary data as may be deemed necessary.

Section 9. *Registration.* Every Land Owner / Farmer and Agricultural Tenant shall within One (1) year after the promulgation of the Implementing Rules and Regulations subsequent to the approval of this Act, is mandated to apply for registration and issuance of the Agri ID at the offices of Department of Agriculture nationwide.

Section 10. *Functional Uses of the Agri ID.* The Agri ID shall be presented and honored in transactions requiring the identity, status, and other personal circumstances such as but not limited to the following :

1. All transactions with the government
2. Banking transactions with Land Bank of the Philippines
3. Availment of benefits or privileges given by the government to landowner/farmer and agricultural tenant
4. Filing of applications for services and benefits offered by agencies of the government pertaining to the agricultural sector
5. Proof of Identity

Section 11. *Appropriations. – Accelerated Titling of Agricultural Land Fund, Post Harvest Facilities and Identification System.* – For the initial implementation of this Act, the amount of One billion pesos (P1,000,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated for the accelerated titling of agricultural lands and the provision of efficient post-harvest facilities, equipment, implements, and machinery to rice farmers, including the implementation of the

Identification System to Land Owner / Farmer and Agricultural Tenant to effective upon approval of this Act and to be incorporated in the annual budget of the Bureau. Thereafter, a Special Fund shall be established by the Department of Budget and Management in the Annual General Appropriations for the continuous implementation of this Act in the annual budget of the Bureau until its tenth (10th) year completion date.

Section 12. Oversight Provisions. – A Joint Congressional Oversight Committee, composed of five (5) members each from the House of the Representatives and Senate, respectively, coming from the House of Representatives Committees on Agrarian Reform, Agriculture and Food, Natural Resources, and Land Use, and from the Senate Committees on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform, and Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change, shall be created to monitor the strict implementation of this Act and the exercise of the authority granted hereunder.

Section 13. Separability Clause. – If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 14. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or other issuances or parts thereof contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

Section 15. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette and in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,