



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



Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1011

Introduced by **MAGBUBUKID PARTY-LIST Representative FERDINAND "B1" L. BELTRAN**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Ang mga kabataan ay mahalagang bahagi ng paghubog ng kinabukasan ng bansa. Ayon sa Saligang Batas ng Pilipinas, tungkulin ng Estado na kilalanin ang papel ng kabataan sa nation building, lalo na sa pagsulong ng kaunlaran sa kanayunan at sektor ng agrikultura. Sa kabila nito, patuloy na bumababa ang bilang ng mga kabataang pumapasok sa larangan ng pagsasaka at pangangisda, dulot ng kakulangan sa oportunidad, kaalaman, puhunan, at access sa lupa at merkado.

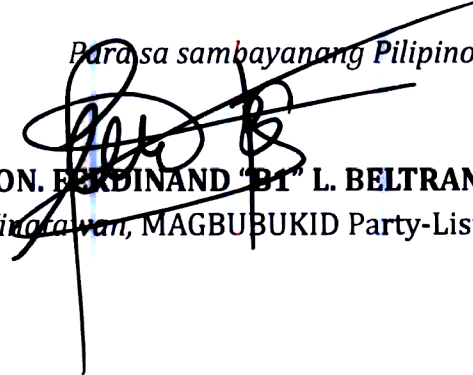
Kinikilala rin ng panukala ang kahalagahan ng pagsasama ng kabataan sa paggawa ng mga patakarang makakaapekto sa kanilang sektor, upang higit silang maging aktibong katuwang ng pamahalaan sa pagtataguyod ng seguridad sa pagkain at kaunlarang pang-rural.

Ang panukalang batas na ito ay isang komprehensibong tugon sa lumalalim na krisis sa sektor ng agrikultura at pangangisda, at isang *strategic investment* sa kinabukasan ng bansa. Sa pamamagitan ng pagbibigay ng tamang suporta sa kabataan, hindi lamang natin pinapalakas ang sektor ng agrikultura at pangangisda, kundi nililinang din natin ang bagong henerasyon ng mga lider, innovator, at bayani ng bayan.

Ang panukalang ito ay isinumite at inaprubahan noong ika-19 na Kongreso at muling sinusulong ngayong ika-20 na Kongreso.

Dahil dito, mariing hinihiling ang agarang pagsasabatas ng panukalang ito.

Para sa sambayanang Pilipino,


HON. FERDINAND "B1" L. BELTRAN
Kinatawan, MAGBUBUKID Party-List



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

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1011

Introduced by **MAGBUBUKID PARTY-LIST Representative FERDINAND "B1" L. BELTRAN**

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE YOUNG FARMERS AND FISHERFOLK
CHALLENGE PROGRAM, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE
YOUNG FARMERS AND FISHERFOLK CHALLENGE COUNCIL, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

1
2 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in*
3 *Congress assembled:*

4 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** — This Act shall be known as the "*Young Farmers and Fisherfolk*
5 *Challenge Act*".
6

7 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** — It is hereby declared the policy of the State to recognize and
8 engage the role of the youth in nation building and rural development, providing for this
9 purpose access to knowledge, information and education, access to land, new sources of
10 financial services and capital, green jobs, access to new and niche markets, and participation
11 in policy dialogue.
12

13 **SEC. 3. Young Farmers and Fisherfolk Challenge Program.** — There is hereby established
14 a Young Farmers and Fisherfolk Challenge Program, hereinafter referred to as the "YFFC
15 Program", that shall support and empower the young farmers and fisherfolk to be active
16 partners in food security and agricultural development and modernization. The Program shall
17 encourage the youth to pursue a career or engage in activities related to agriculture, ensure
18 young farmers and fisherfolk participation in policy formulation and program
19 implementation relative to the agriculture sector, and 1 provide institutional support for agri-
20 business and agri-entrepreneurship initiatives of the youth to fully realize their role as agents
21 and partners for development.
22

23 **SEC. 4. Beneficiaries of the YFFC Program.** — The Program is intended to support young
24 farmers and fisherfolk between eighteen (18) to thirty (30) years of age, who are engaged in
25 farming and fisheries activities, and are included in the Registry System for Basic Sectors in

1 Agriculture (RSBSA). The Department of Agriculture (DA), in coordination with the Local
2 Government Units (LGUs) shall update its existing database to reflect these indicators.

3
4 SEC. 5. Creation of a Young Farmers and Fisherfolk Challenge Council. — There is hereby
5 created the Young Farmers and Fisherfolk Challenge Council, hereinafter referred to as the
6 "Council", to properly oversee the implementation of the Program. The Council shall be
7 composed of the following:

- 8
9 (a) Secretary of the DA or a duly authorized representative who is at least an
10 Undersecretary, who shall be the Chair;
11 (b) Representative of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) who shall likewise
12 be an Undersecretary;
13 (c) Representative of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST);
14 (d) Representative of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR);
15 (e) Representative of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
16 (TESDA);
17 (f) Representative of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG);
18 24 (g) Representative of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources
19 (DENR);
20 (h) Representative of the National Youth Commission (NYC);
21 (i) Representative of the League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP);

22 The Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF) shall serve as its Secretariat.

23
24 **Sec. 6. Powers and Functions of the Council.** — The Council shall have the following powers
25 and functions:

- 26 a. Formulate the YFFC Program, in consultation with research institutions such as the
27 Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture
28 (SEARCA), Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources
29 Research and Development (PCAARRD), University of the Philippines - Los Banos
30 (UPLB) and other relevant State Universities and Colleges;
31 b. Develop, in coordination with various departments and agencies, specific action
32 plans for unambiguous tasking and quick implementation;
33 c. Create special programs for marginalized sectors such as young farmers and
34 fisherfolk from urban poor, women, indigenous people, and the Bangsamoro
35 Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BARMM);
36 d. Develop initiatives in new farm sectors such as "smart farming" farm tourism, agro-
37 , aqua-, and hydroponics, organic and boutique vegetables;
38 e. Identify relevant training and livelihood budgets in the different departments and
39 agencies, including start-up capital;
40 f. Implement the departments' and agencies' action plans, engaging the assistance of
41 the LGUs and Sanqguniang Kabataan (SK);
42 g. Identify the best practices in the implementation of the program as well as
43 emerging best practices in agriculture such as smart farming and farm tourism 13 in
44 compliance with Republic Act No. 10816, or the "Farm Tourism Development Act of
45 2016",

- h. Foster the formation of new ideas and technologies by assisting agricultural enterprises of qualified young farmers and fisherfolk entrepreneurs, pursuant to Republic Act No. 11337, otherwise known as the "Innovative Start-up Act of 2018";
- i. Initiate new packaging, promotion, and marketing events;
- j. Package incentive and recognition programs/awards system;
- k. Ensure participation of young farmers and fisherfolk in agri- and food tourism marketing events, nationally and internationally;
- l. Provide on-the-job training programs for young farmers and fisherfolk in areas such as "green jobs reforestation, coastal management, fisheries, and other rural-based jobs, through the DOLE, TESDA, and other livelihood and training programs;
- m. Establish linkages with agricultural representatives of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and other international farming and fisherfolk youth associations;
- n. Engage national and international leaders in formulating policies directly addressing young farmers and fisherfolk concerns; and
- o. Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation of this Act as well as its impact on the participants and beneficiaries.

SEC. 7. Access to Knowledge, Information, and Education. - A whole government approach shall be utilized to inform and enlist young farmers and fisherfolk in agriculture:

- a. Role of the DepEd- The DepEd shall include at all levels, but particularly in its K2 12 program, elective subjects focused on agriculture, such as garden farming, urban greening, reforestation and coastal management;
- b. Role of the TESDA - The TESDA, in coordination with the DICT and the DOST, shall add subjects in their training centers for agricultural entrepreneurship, "smart farming", and other advanced farming technologies, prioritizing programs focused on agriculture;
- c. Role of the DOLE - The DOLE shall provide on-the-job training (OJT) programs or young farmers and fisherfolk, including the Special Program for Employment of Students (SPES);
- d. Role of the CHED, SUCs, and Agricultural Schools — The CHED, SUCs, and agricultural schools shall provide scholarship grants, stipends, and subsidies to qualified young farmers and fisherfolk. Likewise, the CHED, SUCs, and agricultural schools shall provide schemes for distance, remote, and digital learning. The CHED shall likewise encourage the private colleges and universities to provide similar opportunities and schemes to qualified recipients.
The CHED shall include agriculture in its National Service Training Program (NSTP) curriculum, such as garden farming, urban greening, and coastal management. CHED shall likewise promulgate the policies, standards and guidelines for agriculture courses which shall focus on sustainability and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Scholarships for post-graduate and doctoral degrees shall be provided by CHED: *Provided, That* private universities and colleges are also enjoined to provide the same.
- e. Role of the DA, ATI and PCAF - The DA, through the 4-H Club of the ATI and the Agricultural and Fishery Youthpreneur Council (AFYC) of the PCAF, shall provide for scholarship grants and stipends to qualified young farmers and fisherfolk;

1 f. Role of the DOST and DICT - The DOST and DICT shall develop portals, utilize social
2 media, and exploit other electronic technologies, to publicize the Program; and
3 g. Role of the LGU and the SK - The LGU shall inform and enlist the SK who shall act as
4 trainer-leaders to qualified and interested young farmers and fisherfolk.
5

6 **SEC. 8. Access to Land.** — Short-leases, free land, and agrarian reform schemes shall be
7 developed to provide access to land for young farmers:
8

9 a. Role of the DENR - The DENR shall explore the possibilities of extending short-term
10 leases of public land to young farmers and fisherfolk, provide free or subsidized land
11 for cultivation, and develop such other packages as would allow young farmers to use
12 available or unutilized agricultural land;

13 b. Role of the DAR - The DAR shall facilitate and expedite the lease, distribution, and
14 award of agrarian reform land;

15 c. Role of the LGU and the SK - The LGU shall help assist the DENR in identifying the
16 young farmers and fisherfolk who shall benefit the lease agreements; and

17 d. Role of the SUCs - Whenever SUCs own or occupy excess landholdings, young
18 farmers shall be given first option to use and cultivate such landholdings for
19 agricultural purposes.
20

21 **SEC. 9. Access to Financial Services.** — Young farmers and fisherfolk shall be provided
22 financial assistance and given access to financial services such as loan/s or grant/s:

23 a. Role of the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) - The LBP shall develop favorable
24 financial packages for young farmers and fisherfolk, waiving collateral, salary
25 and other typical bank requisites;

26 b. Role of the DA - The DA shall develop financial packages specifically targeting
27 young farmers and fisherfolk;

28 c. Role of the DTI - The DTI, through the Small Business Corporation (SB Corp),
29 shall extend loans to the young farmers and fisherfolk for the trade and
30 marketing of their agricultural products;

31 d. Role of the DOST, DICT, and DTI - The DOST, DICT, and the DTI, pursuant to Republic
32 Act No. 11337, otherwise known as the "Innovative Start-up Act of
33 2018" and other programs shall include agricultural enterprises for qualified
34 young farmers and fisherfolk-entrepreneurs in their incubation efforts;

35 e. Role of CHED and TESDA - CHED and TESDA shall provide financial literacy
36 trainings particularly in handling and managing loans and grants;

37 f. Role of the Private Sector - The private sector is encouraged to subcontract,
38 partner, and extend financial grants, initiate social partnerships and rural
39 development initiatives, as well as mentor young farmers and fisherfolk on livelihood
40 strategies, as part of their corporate social responsibility and other community
41 participation;

42 g. Role of the LGU - The LGU, in coordination with the SK, shall provide funding and
43 livelihood opportunities to young farmers and fisherfolk;

44 h. Role of the SK - The SK, using its ten percent (10%) Development Fund, and other
45 funds, shall provide entrepreneurial and finance packages for young farmers and
46 fisherfolk; and

1 Role of the NYC - The NYC, in tandem with potential youth agri-entrepreneurs, shall
2 initiate donation and fundraising drives for the Program, exploiting for this purpose
3 online advertising, "crowd-sourcing", and other digital means to generate funds for
4 the Program.

5
6 **SEC. 10. Access to "Green Jobs."** — Young farmers and fisherfolk shall be given priority in
7 access to green jobs, as follows;

8
9 a. Role of the DOLE - The DOLE, through the SPES, shall include "green job",
10 reforestation, coastal management, fisheries, and other rural-based jobs, in
11 cooperation with LGUs. The DOLE shall prioritize young farmers and fisherfolk for
12 employment in job fairs, public projects or private agro-industries and corporations;

13 b. Role of the TESDA — The TESDA shall develop on-the-job trainings, employment
14 bridging initiatives, and private partnerships in producing, processing, packaging, and
15 marketing young farmers and fisherfolk products;

16 c. Role of the DOT - The DOT shall prioritize the employment of young farmers and
17 fisherfolk in eco- and agro-tours, and encourage entrepreneurship in farm and fishery
18 tourism;

19 d. Role of the PEZA - The PEZA shall prioritize young farmers and fisherfolk for jobs
20 in agro-industrial ecozones, provide access to modern farm technology, promote
21 linkages in agriculture-related enterprise, and accelerate the creation of "green jobs"
22 for young farmers and fisherfolk; and

23 e. The DA and the ATI - The DA, particularly the 4-H Club of the ATI, shall embark upon
24 farming start-ups and provide training/s in new and niche agricultural sectors such
25 as organic farming, agroponics, aguaponics, hydroponics, dairy, livestock, coffee,
26 cacao, and other areas of farming and fishing. The DA and ATI shall also create
27 opportunities for young farmers and fisherfolk to harness their leadership skills.

28
29 **SEC. 11. Access to Markets.** — Young farmers and fisherfolk shall have access to markets
30 through the following:

31 a. Role of the DA — The DA shall assist the young farmers and fisherfolk in selling the
32 products through the Kadiwa stores in strategic locations.

33 b. Role of the DTI — The DTI shall assist young farmers and fisherfolk in the
34 packaging, marketing and promotion of their products, including branding,
35 advertising, and subsidizing their participation in trade fairs and exhibits;

36 c. Role of the DOST — The DOST shall assist the young farmers and fisherfolk in
37 providing assistance and research in the food analysis of the product's nutritional
38 component and content, among others.

39 d. Role of the LGU — The LGU shall provide subsidized rental rates for public retail
40 areas and public markets, encourage agricultural tourism, and develop other
41 opportunities for young farmers and fisherfolk;

42 e. Role of the Department of Tourism (DOT) — The DOT shall promote the products
43 of young farmers and fisherfolk through tourism conventions, events, and other
44 tourist souvenir sales opportunities;

45 f. Role of the Private Sector — The private sector is encouraged to market and promote
46 the products of young farmers and fisherfolk, as part of their Corporate 15 Social
47 Responsibility (CSR) and other development efforts; and

1 g. Role of the Government Media — The government media shall promote and
2 advertise the products of the YFFC Program.
3

4 **SEC. 12. Engagement in Policy Dialogue.** — The young farmers and fisherfolk are 20
5 encouraged to participate in policy dialogues, as follows:
6

7 a. Role of the NYC - The NYC shall ensure that young farmers and fisherfolk are
8 represented in all decision-making bodies relating to the establishment of
9 mechanisms for the promotion and protection of the rights of young farmers and
10 fisherfolk;

11 b. Role of the SK - The SK, through local and Congressional youth representatives,
12 shall liaise with the Local Government Leagues and the Congress of the Philippines to
13 consult and engage young farmers and fisherfolk in policymaking; and

14 c. Role of the DA - The DA shall ensure that young farmers and fisherfolk are equitably
15 represented and consulted in its decision-making process to fully realize the young
16 farmers' and fisherfolk' role as agents and partners for national development.
17

18 **SEC. 13. Waiver of Government Fees and Charges.** — Subject to the exceptions provided in
19 Sec. 8 of Republic Act No. 11261, otherwise known as the "First-Time Jobseekers Assistance
20 Act" all government agencies and instrumentalities, including government-owned and
21 controlled corporations (GOCCs), LGUs, and government hospitals shall not collect fees or
22 charges from any young farmers and fisherfolk. *Provided*, That such fee or charge is paid in
23 connection with the application for and the granting of licenses, proofs of identification,
24 clearances, certificates or other documents 4 usually required in the course of employment
25 locally or abroad. *Provided*, Further, That the benefit provided shall only be availed of once.
26

27 **SEC. 14. Annual Report.** —The Council shall submit to the President and to both Houses of
28 Congress, not later than the 30th of March of every year following the effectivity of this Act, a
29 report giving a detailed account on the effective implementation of this Act, and
30 recommended legislation where applicable and necessary.
31

32 **SEC. 15. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** — Within ninety (90) days from the
33 effectivity of this Act, the DA, in coordination with the DTI, DAR, DOST, DICT, DOLE, and DENR
34 shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the implementation of this Act.
35

36 **SEC. 16. Appropriations.** — The amount needed to initially implement the provisions of this
37 Act shall be charged against the appropriations of the current year of the concerned
38 departments and agencies. Thereafter, such sums, as may be necessary, for its continued
39 implementation shall be included in the appropriation of the concerned departments and
40 agencies in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).
41

42 **SEC. 17. Repealing Clause.** — All provisions of existing laws, orders and regulations contrary
43 to or inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.
44

45 **SEC. 18. Separability Clause.** — If for any reason any part or provision of this Act shall be
46 deemed unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof shall not be
47 affected and shall remain in force and effect.

1
2
3
4
5

Sec. 19. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.
Approved,