

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3285



INTRODUCED BY HONORABLE JANICE V. DEGAMO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The agricultural sector remains one of the most vital yet vulnerable pillars of the Philippine economy. It provides livelihood to millions of smallholder farmers and fisherfolk and is the primary source of food for the nation. However, despite their indispensable role, many of our agricultural workers continue to suffer from poor market access, lack of proper post-harvest facilities, low farmgate prices, and high transportation and transaction costs.

A major contributing factor to these challenges is the absence of an efficient and equitable marketing system that links producers directly to institutional buyers, retailers, and consumers. The long chain of middlemen, coupled with inadequate infrastructure and logistical bottlenecks, often leaves farmers with marginal profits and consumers with high food prices.

This proposed measure seeks to institutionalize the establishment of Agri-Food Terminals and Trading Centers in every province to serve as centralized hubs for the aggregation, storage, and sale of agricultural and fisheries products. These facilities will allow farmers and fisherfolk to directly engage with the market, increase their profit margins, reduce post-harvest losses, and enhance the mobility and accessibility of local produce to different parts of the country at lower cost.

Approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


JANICE V. DEGAMO
Representative, 3rd District of Negros Oriental

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3285

Introduced by **HONORABLE JANICE V. DEGAMO**

AN ACT
MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AGRI-FOOD TERMINALS AND
TRADING CENTERS IN EVERY PROVINCE PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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 “Agri-Food Terminal and Tradings Centers Act”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Principles and State Policies.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to give aid to farmers by providing venue to promote and market their produce and giving them access to buyers who can offer competitive prices. Towards this end, a comprehensive program for the creation of a nationwide system of agricultural food terminals and trading centers is hereby established.

The goal of these centers is to provide an avenue where farmers and livestock raisers can directly sell their products to institutional buyers and gain higher profit; moreover, this endeavour for a higher mobility for locally produced agricultural products to the whole country for cheaper cost of transportation.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

- (a) *Agri-Food Terminals* - a centralized facility in a province where agricultural products are assembled, stored, processed, and distributed.
- (b) *Trading Center* - a facility that enables direct transactions between producers and buyers, including institutional markets, wholesalers, and retailers.
- (c) *Smallholder Farmers and Fisherfolk* - agricultural workers with limited access to resources, land, and capital.

SEC. 4. *Establishment of Agri-Food Terminals and Trading Centers* - The Department of Agriculture (DA), in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and concerned LGUs, shall establish and manage an Agri-Food Terminals and Trading Center in every province within five (5) years from the effectivity of this Act. Cities and municipalities are hereby encouraged to establish their own Agri-Food Terminals and Trading Centers.

Agri-Food Terminal and Trading Centers shall have the following standards for their creation and operation:

- a. It shall be mandatory for the province to setup at least one Agri-food Terminal and Trading Center adjacent to a train stations located within the jurisdiction of the province concerned.
- b. In provinces where there is no train station. Agri-food Terminal and Trading Center shall be set up strategically near ports, bus terminals or any transport hub within the jurisdiction of the province concerned.
- c. For the first two (2) years from the date of operation, terminals/centers shall concentrate on the top three agricultural products of the province. The list shall be expanded to five after this period.
- d. Each center shall be equipped with a warehousing center, cold storage and any similar facilities necessary to accommodate and store agriculture product.

SEC. 5. *Work Plan*. – In line with this Act, the Department of Agriculture shall develop the following:

- a. A plan of bringing the program down to the grassroots, utilizing available personnel and facilities on the local level and those of LGUs;
- b. A pattern of cooperation and mutual assistance with LGUs, Peoples Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations, which will maximize people empowerment and participatory approaches to program formulation, implementation and monitoring;
- c. and A schedule of short-term, medium-term and long-term targets on research and development, marketing, trade promotion/initiatives, capacity building, among others.

SEC. 6. *Funding*. – The amount of Twenty-Five Billion Pesos (₱25,000,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated for the initial year of implementation of this act, thereafter, the amount of Ten Billion pesos (₱10,000,000,000.00) shall be included in

the budget of the Department for implementation and continued expansion of this program. In addition, the establishment and operation of terminals and centers will be made with the available participatory funding from the national government with adequate equity from the Local Government Units.

SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Interior and Local Government, in consultation with appropriate government agencies and other stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act. The implementing rules and regulations shall include a template to guide the cities and municipalities in the establishment of their own Agri-Food Terminals and Trading Centers.

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any section of this Act shall be deemed unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof shall not be affected and shall thereby remain in force and effect.

SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, decrees, instructions, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation

Approved,