



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3432



Introduced by Representative Crispin Diego “Ping” D. Remulla

AN ACT
ENCOURAGING YOUTH SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN THE AGRICULTURAL
SECTOR, ESTABLISHING FOR THE PURPOSE A 'TULONG KABATAAN SA
AGRIKULTURA PROGRAM' AND A 'TULONG KABATAAN SA AGRIKULTURA
TRUST FUND', APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Agriculture remains a fundamental aspect of the Philippine economy. It provides livelihood and ensures national food security. However, the agricultural sector faces significant challenges, including an aging farmer population and declining youth engagement.

According to an article posted by the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA), the average age of Filipino farmers ranges between 55 and 59 years old. Experts warn that the country may face a critical shortage of farmers within the next 10 to 12 years, which can jeopardize food security and plans for rice self-sufficiency. Furthermore, there is a consistent decline in enrollment in agriculture and related courses, averaging a 1.5% decrease annually prior to the pandemic.

This measure seeks to reverse these trends by establishing the Tulong Kabataan sa Agrikultura Program and its corresponding Trust Fund. This measure seeks to offer scholarships, experiential learning opportunities, and agribusiness to the marginalized but

deserving students. Finally, this measure seeks to ensure the long-term sustainability of Philippine agriculture.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. D. Remulla', with a stylized flourish at the end.

CRISPIN DIEGO "PING" D. REMULLA



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3432

Introduced by Representative Crispin Diego “Ping” D. Remulla

AN ACT
ENCOURAGING YOUTH SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN THE AGRICULTURAL
SECTOR, ESTABLISHING FOR THE PURPOSE A 'TULONG KABATAAN SA
AGRIKULTURA PROGRAM' AND A 'TULONG KABATAAN SA AGRIKULTURA
TRUST FUND', APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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

ARTICLE I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Tulong Kabataan sa Agrikultura Act*”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State shall give priority to education, science and technology to accelerate social progress and promote development Towards this end, the government shall provide opportunities for all to obtain quality education and for this purpose, scholarships in Agriculture, Agri-Entrepreneurship, Forestry and Fisheries are hereby strengthened. It is also the policy of the State to develop graduates who will become competent agribusiness managers and entrepreneurs.

SEC. 3. *Objectives.* – The objectives of this Act are to:

- a) Increase youth participation in the agricultural sector;
- b) Provide opportunities to poor but deserving students to realize their potentials in agribusiness and entrepreneurship;

- c) Develop competency skills and knowledge of students in agricultural technologies and agribusiness;
- d) Increase food production;
- e) Commercialize proven viable technologies to increase food production and income of rural communities through the development of livelihoods and markets;
- f) Provide Income to students while doing experiential learning and on-the- job training which form part of their degree programs;
- g) Link young farmer-students with credit, financing, and marketing institutions; and
- h) Contribute to the alleviation of poverty.

SEC. 4. *Definition of Terms.* – for the purposes of this Act:

- a) *Tulong Kabataan sa Agrikultura Program or The Program* – refers to the scholarship program established by this Act which targets poor but deserving graduates of agricultural and fisheries tracks in senior high schools and similarly situated students taking up agriculture and related courses in tertiary education;
- b) *Tulong Kabataan sa Agrikultura Trust Fund or The Fund* – refers to the trust fund created under this Act to ensure the achievement of this Act's incentives;
- c) *Agribusiness Venture Laboratory* – refers to agricultural subjects and classes designed as business ventures in agriculture, fisheries, forestry, and agri-entrepreneurship including but not limited to raising of poultry, goats, corn or rice or crop production and counted as satisfying the laboratory requirement of a course.

ARTICLE II

THE TULONG KABATAAN SA AGRIKULTURA PROGRAM

SEC. 5. *Establishment of a Tulong Kabataan sa Agrikultura Program.* – A *Tulong Kabataan sa Agrikultura* scholarship program in agriculture, fisheries, forestry and related areas to be administered by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) is hereby established. The program shall be a ladderized program in Diploma in Agricultural Technology (DAT), Bachelor in Agricultural Technology (BAT) and Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness (BSAgrib). The program shall initially be offered by the University of the Philippines-Los Banos College of Agriculture in the first two (2) years of this Act's effectivity. The program shall be offered in SUCs which provide courses in agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and other allied fields.

SEC. 6. *Target Beneficiaries.* – The Program shall target senior high school graduates of agricultural and fisheries tracks, and similarly situated students of agriculture and fisheries in tertiary education, who have a general weighted average of at least eighty percent (80%) or

1 its equivalent: *Provided*, That beneficiaries who complete the agriculture and fisheries tracks
2 of senior high and who enroll in an agriculture, forestry, fisheries, or other similar course in
3 tertiary education shall continue to be covered by the Program.

4 **SEC. 7. Assistance to Grantees.** – Beneficiaries of the Program shall be entitled to
5 financial assistance, which shall include the following:

- 6 a) Tuition and other school fees;
- 7 b) Outright grant for prescribed textbooks and essential school supplies;
- 8 c) Transportation expenses; and
- 9 d) Monthly living allowance.

10 **SEC. 8. Curriculum Formulation.** – There is hereby established a technical committee
11 which shall design the curriculum of the Program. The Committee shall be composed of the
12 following:

- 13 a) The Chairperson of the CfED, or his permanent representative, as Chairperson of
14 the Committee;
- 15 b) The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA), or his permanent
16 representative, as the Vice Chairperson;
- 17 c) The Dean of the University of the Philippines-Los Banos College of Agriculture;
18 and
- 19 d) One (1) representative each from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao from other
20 colleges of agriculture, who shall be appointed by the President, and who shall each
21 serve a term of one (1) year.

22 At least twenty-five percent (25%) of the entire curriculum of the Program shall be in
23 the form of on-the-job training or related learning experience. Laboratory components of
24 various agricultural subjects shall be in the form of agribusiness ventures.

25 **SEC. 9. Strengthening Agri-Fisheries Tracks in Senior High.** – To achieve the
26 objectives of this Act, the Department of Education (DepEd) is hereby directed to ensure that
27 agri-fisheries tracks are offered in as many senior high school program in appropriate areas
28 nationwide.

29 **SEC. 10. Agribusiness Venture Laboratories.** – Each agribusiness venture shall be
30 under the supervision of a faculty who is also a technology expert in the chosen commodity.
31 The agribusiness venture laboratory to be developed must have short gestation, around three
32 (3) to twelve (12) months, should be science and technology based agribusiness, the end
33 products should be highly marketable and the facilities needed should be present within the
34 SUC.

1 **SEC. 17. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete
2 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation,
3 whichever comes after.

Approved,