

TWENTIETH CONGRESS)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez and
Representative Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr.*

House Bill No. 3803

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Agriculture remains a critical pillar of the Philippine economy, providing employment and livelihood to millions of Filipinos, particularly in rural areas. Despite its importance, the sector continues to face persistent challenges, including declining productivity, vulnerability to climate change, limited access to updated technology, and inadequate delivery of government support services.

One of the key systemic issues lies in the fragmented and under-resourced agricultural extension system. While extension services were devolved to local government units (LGUs) under the Local Government Code of 1991, this has resulted in significant disparities in the quality, reach, and effectiveness of services across the country. Many LGUs struggle with insufficient personnel, outdated knowledge, and lack of access to real-time data needed to respond to the evolving needs of farmers.

This proposed measure seeks to strengthen the national framework for agricultural extension services by establishing a more coordinated, capacitated, and professionalized extension workforce, equipped with updated technical knowledge and tools to deliver timely and science-based agricultural advice. It also envisions closer collaboration between the Department of Agriculture, LGUs, state universities and colleges (SUCs), and other stakeholders to ensure unified service delivery.

In line with the goals of food security, rural development, and inclusive economic growth, the passage of this measure is urgently needed to make Philippine agriculture more responsive, resilient, and globally competitive.

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


RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ


MAXIMO B. RODRIGUEZ, JR.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez and
Representative Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr.*

House Bill No. **3803**

AN ACT

STRENGTHENING THE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SYSTEM, ENHANCING DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING MECHANISMS, AND IMPROVING THE DELIVERY OF SUPPORT SERVICES TO FARMERS AT THE GRASSROOTS LEVEL, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

Section 1. Purpose and Objectives. – This Act aims to promote localized planning and budgeting in agriculture development, enhancing the comparative and competitive advantages of each region, province, and municipality.

Section 2. Framework for Localized Planning. – The Department of Agriculture (DA) shall adopt a localized planning and budgeting framework, capacitating Local Government Units (LGUs) to develop:

- (a) Municipal Agriculture and Fishery Development and Investment Plans (MAFDPs); and
- (b) Provincial Agriculture and Fishery Investment and Development Plans (PAFIDPs).

Section 3. This framework aims to:

- (a) Enhance localized planning and budgeting in agriculture development;
- (b) Promote comparative and competitive advantages of each region, province, and municipality; and
- (c) Improve food security, income generation, and agricultural productivity.

Section 4. Capacitation of LGUs. – The DA shall provide technical assistance and capacity-building programs for Municipal Agriculturists and Provincial Agriculturists to develop and implement MAFDPs and PAFIDPs.

Section 5. Municipal Agriculture and Fishery Development and Investment Plan (MAFDP). – Each municipality shall develop a MAFDP outlining agriculture development programs and projects, with clear targets, goals, and objectives.

Section 6. Provincial Agriculture and Fishery Investment and Development Plan (PAFIDP). – Each province shall develop a PAFIDP, consolidating all MAFDPs, with defined key indicators of success in:

- (a) Food security;
- (b) Income generation; and
- (c) Supporting agriculture enterprise projects.

Section 7. LGUs shall be capacitated to design, plan, and monitor agriculture projects, ensuring effective implementation and evaluation.

Section 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The DA, in coordination with relevant agencies, shall issue implementing rules and regulations (IRR) within 90 days from the effectivity of this Act.

Section 9. Appropriations. – The amount necessary to implement this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 10. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,