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Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

First Regular Session
TWENTIETH CONGRESS

House Bill No. 3960



Introduced by REP. JESUS MANUEL "BONG" C. SUNTAY

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution commands the State to promote agricultural development and industrialization, to secure a more equitable distribution of opportunities, and to raise the quality of life for all. Yet despite our nation's abundant harvests, Filipino farmers continue to suffer diminished incomes due to long supply chains, inefficient distribution, and lack of bargaining power.

This measure seeks to build the backbone of food security by mandating the establishment of **Agri-Food Terminals and Trading Centers (AFTTCs)** in every province of the Republic. Each center will house warehousing, cold storage, quality testing, and trading facilities. These shall be strategically located beside transport hubs—rail stations, ports, or major road junctions—so that the produce of our farmers may swiftly reach the tables of our people.

The Department of Agriculture, in coordination with concerned agencies and local governments, is charged to draw up a phased implementation plan: in the short term, targeting each province's top commodities; in the medium term, expanding to wider markets; and in the long term, weaving an integrated national food supply chain.

With this measure, we seek to guarantee that the farmer receives a fair price, the consumer pays an affordable cost, and the nation is shielded from hunger and waste. It is a decisive step towards fulfilling the promise of a just and dynamic social order.

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


REP. JESUS MANUEL "BONG" C. SUNTAY

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(c) Smallholder Farmers and Fisherfolk – agricultural workers with limited access to resources, land, and capital.

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

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

10 a. It shall be mandatory for the province to setup at least one Agri-food Terminal
11 and Trading Center adjacent to a train stations located within the jurisdiction of the
12 province concerned.

13 b. In provinces where there is no train station, Agri-food Terminal and Trading
14 Center shall be set up strategically near ports, bus terminals or any transport hub
15 within the jurisdiction of the province concerned.

16 c. For the first two (2) years from the date of operation, terminals/centers shall
17 concentrate on the top three (3) agricultural products of the province. The list shall
18 be expanded to five after this period.

19 d. Each center shall be equipped with a warehousing center, cold storage and any
20 similar facilities necessary to accommodate and store agriculture product.

21 Sec. 5. Work Plan. - In line with this Act, the Department of Agriculture shall
22 develop the following:

23 a. A plan of bringing the program down to the grassroots, utilizing available
24 personnel and facilities on the local level and those of LGUs;

25 b. A pattern of cooperation and mutual assistance with LGUs, Peoples
26 Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations, which will maximize people
27 empowerment and participatory approaches to program formulation,
28 implementation and monitoring; and

29 c. A schedule of short-term, medium-term and long-term targets on research and
30 development, marketing, trade promotion/initiatives, capacity building, among
31 others.

32 Sec. 6. Funding. – The amount of Twenty-Five billion (Php 25,000,000,000) is
33 hereby appropriated for the initial year of implementation of this act, thereafter, the
34 amount of Ten Billion pesos (Php 10,000,000,000) shall be included in the budget

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

5 Sec. 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within thirty (30) days from the
6 effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Interior and
7 Local Government, in consultation with appropriate government agencies and other
8 stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement this
9 Act. The implementing rules and regulations shall include a template to guide the
10 cities and municipalities in the establishment of their own Agri-food Terminals and
11 Trading Centers.

12 Sec. 10. Separability Clause. - If any part or provision of this Act shall be declared
13 unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions hereof which are not affected
14 thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

15 Sec. 11. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, executive orders, memorandum
16 orders, memorandum circulars, administrative orders, ordinances or parts thereof
17 which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed repealed or
18 modified accordingly.

19 Sec. 12. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
20 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of national circulation.

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22 Approved,