

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5009



Introduced by **REP. NATHANIEL “Atty. Nat” M. ODUCAO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Agricultural Pension Program seeks to address the long-standing issue of social security and pension gaps among the country's farmers and fisherfolk, who remain among the most economically vulnerable sectors in society despite their essential role in ensuring national food security.

Agriculture and fisheries are at the very heart of the Philippine economy, sustaining millions of livelihoods, especially in rural areas. However, because of the seasonal and unpredictable nature of these industries, many of our farmers and fisherfolk continue to endure low and unstable incomes, lack of access to healthcare, and the absence of retirement or pension benefits. Despite their productivity and immeasurable contributions to national development, their quality of life has not significantly improved.

According to the Philippine Statistics Authority, farmers and fisherfolk remain among the poorest basic sectors of society. In 2023, the poverty incidence among farmers was recorded at 27.0 percent, while fisherfolk registered at 27.4 percent – figures that place them among the top three poorest groups in the country. Unlike workers in the formal sector, those engaged in agriculture and fisheries are largely excluded from the national social security system, leaving them without a safety net when age, illness, or disability prevents them from working.

The story of Mang Romeo, a farmer from Nueva Ecija who, at over seventy years old, remains poor despite more than six decades of work in the fields, is one among millions. His plight reflects the harsh reality confronting countless farmers and fisherfolk who, even in their twilight years, continue to work simply to survive.

This bill seeks to recognize the fundamental role and properly value the contributions of farmers and fisherfolk, like Mang Romeo, in our daily survival, in ensuring food security, and in the overall national development. The undersigned sees the urgent need to protect and promote their welfare through measures that would reduce their socio-economic risks and vulnerabilities.

Accordingly, this measure not only establishes a comprehensive pension and social security program but also introduces an educational scholarship component for the dependents of registered farmers and fisherfolk. This provision recognizes that uplifting the sector requires breaking the cycle of intergenerational poverty. By ensuring that their sons and daughters gain access to quality education—whether in state universities, colleges, or technical-vocational institutions—the

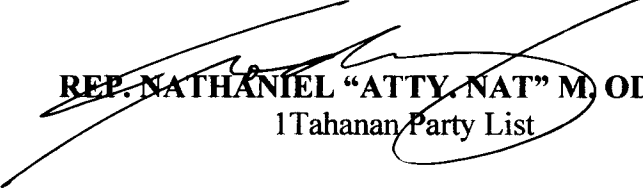
¹ Philippine Statistics Authority. (2025) Participation in the labor force in May 2025 increased to 52.32 million Filipinos aged 15 years and over. Available at: <https://psa.gov.ph/statistics/labor-force-survey/press-release/node/1684077662>

² Philippine Statistics Authority. (2025) 1st Quarter Agriculture, forestry and fishing accelerates in the first quarter of 2025. Available at: <https://psa.gov.ph/statistics/national-accounts/sector/Agriculture%2C%20Forestry%20and%20Fishing>.

Program invests in the future of farming and fishing families while strengthening the country's human capital.

The State must strive to ensure a better quality of life, a reliable source of retirement benefits, and broader social support for the very people who feed the nation, while giving their children the opportunity to pursue education and a brighter future.

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



REP. NATHANIEL "ATTY. NAT" M. ODOCADO
1Tahanan Party List

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **5009**

Introduced by **REP. NATHANIEL “ATTY. NAT” M. ODUCAO**

**AN ACT CREATING AN AGRICULTURAL PENSION PROGRAM TO PROVIDE
SOCIAL SECURITY AND PENSION BENEFITS TO FARMERS AND
FISHERFOLK**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Pensyonadong Magsasaka at Mangangisda Act.*”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to:

- a. Revitalize the agriculture industry towards sustainability and create the necessary conditions to end hunger, achieve food security, and improve the general health and nutrition of Filipinos;
- b. Recognize the important role and give proper value to the contributions of farmers and fisherfolk in our daily survival, national development, and in ensuring long-term food security;
- c. Protect and promote the welfare of farmers and fisherfolk by putting in place measures that would reduce their socio-economic risks and vulnerabilities, thereby improving their quality of life; and
- d. Establish and institutionalize a comprehensive pension and social security program for the benefit of agricultural workers.

SEC. 3. *The Farmers and fisherfolk Social Security and Pension Program.* - There is hereby established the “*Farmers and Fisherfolk Social Security and Pension Program,*” (Program) herein referred to as the Program, which shall provide agricultural workers a substantial and reliable source of income security and secured retirement in their old age. The program shall consist of the comprehensive set of objectives, targets, and holistic approach in the provision of sickness, maternity, disability, retirement, death, and funeral benefits under the Social Security System (SSS) and relevant programs of the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC).

1 **SEC. 4. *Benefits for Dependents.*** – In recognition of the invaluable role of farmers and
2 fisherfolk in national development, and to uplift their families from intergenerational poverty, the
3 Program shall likewise provide educational scholarships to the legitimate and legally adopted sons
4 and daughters of registered farmer and fisherfolk beneficiaries, guided by the following general
5 guidelines:

- 6 a) The scholarship shall cover tuition, miscellaneous fees, and a reasonable allowance
7 for books, supplies, and other academic needs;
- 8 b) Qualified dependents shall be entitled to a scholarship grant from the time of
9 admission until completion of a college degree or technical-vocational course in
10 any state university, college, or public technical-vocational institution; and
- 11 c) In cases where slots and resources permit, qualified dependents may also avail of
12 assistance when enrolled in accredited private educational institutions, subject to
13 guidelines prescribed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

14 **SEC. 5. *Implementing Agencies.*** – The PCIC, an attached agency of the DA, and the SSS shall
15 be the primary implementing agencies of the provisions of this Act. To fulfill the goals of this Act,
16 they shall perform the following duties and functions:

- 17 a) The SSS and PCIC shall tap the expertise of other relevant government offices in the
18 formulation of the objectives, targets, and approaches under the Program;
- 19 b) The PCIC shall manage the registration system of eligible agricultural workers under the
20 Registry System for Basic Senators in Agriculture (RSBSA) and maintain the required
21 operational reports;
- 22 c) The SSS shall manage the funds allocated and the social security and pension scheme of
23 the Program and maintain the required actuarial and financial reports;
- 24 d) The PCIC and the SSS shall perform other duties and functions necessary in the efficient
25 and effective implementation of this Act.
- 26 e) The Department of Agriculture (DA), in coordination with the Commission on Higher
27 Education (CHED) and the Technical Education Skills Development Authority (TESDA),
28 shall administer and supervise the scholarship component of this Act. The DA shall ensure
29 that the selection of scholarship-beneficiaries is merit-based, transparent, and inclusive,
30 prioritizing dependents of indigent farmers and fisherfolk. The DA, CHED, and TESDA
31 shall submit an annual report to Congress on the number of scholarship recipients, their
32 fields of study, and their performance.

33
34 The DA shall ensure that the objectives of the Program are met and shall evaluate and
35 monitor its contribution to the productivity of the agricultural sector and the improvement
36 of the quality of life of farms, fisherfolk, and their families.

37 **SEC. 6. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary to carry out the initial implementation of this
38 Act shall be drawn from the savings of the national government. Thereafter, the funds necessary
39 for the continuous implementation of the program shall be sourced from ten percent (10%) of the
40 total annual duties collected from the importation of agricultural products. Of this amount, five
41 percent (5%) shall be earmarked exclusively for the scholarship component established under

1 Section 3-A of this Act. The supplemental amount necessary for its implementation shall be
2 included in the annual appropriations of the DA.

3 **SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within ninety (90) days from the date of
4 effectivity of this Act, the PCIC shall, in consultation with the DA, SSS, the Department of Budget
5 and Management, and the Department of Finance, formulate the rules and regulations for the proper
6 implementation of this Act.

7 **SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or
8 unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected by such declaration shall remain in full force and
9 effect.

10 **SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, executive and administrative orders, rules, and
11 regulations inconsistent with the foregoing provisions are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

12 **SEC. 10. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
13 Official gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

14 *Approved,*