



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5070



Introduced by **Representative KATRINA REIKO CHUA - TAI**
1st District, Zamboanga City

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippine sugarcane industry supports over 700,000 farmers, workers, and their families across 28 provinces, contributing up to ₱90 billion annually. Its stability is vital to rural welfare, food and energy security, and the broader economy. Immediate support is needed to protect these foundations.

However, challenges persist including the declining productivity, fragmented land, outdated equipment, climate risks, labor displacement, and volatile prices, threaten the industry's survival and jeopardize millions of rural livelihood and broader economic stability.

In 2015, Republic Act No. 10659, also known as the Sugarcane Industry Development Act (SIDA), was enacted to modernize the sector. Yet, its implementation has been hindered by inconsistent and insufficient funding, which prevents critical programs from achieving a meaningful impact.

This measure addresses these challenges by increasing the annual supplemental budget to ₱5 billion, with a priority on supporting smallholder farmers and vulnerable rural communities. The Sugar Regulatory Administration, along with its partner agencies, will develop essential facilities and infrastructure to support a sustainable and modernized industry.

Specifically, this Act aims to guarantee sustained government investment in key Sugarcane Industry Development Act (SIDA) programs, advance block farming, mill district development, and rural infrastructure, and promote value-adding industries such as bioethanol, cogeneration, and downstream processing. It also seeks to ensure labor protections, capacity building, and social support for sugar workers, while promoting climate-resilient practices and sustainable land management in sugar-producing regions.

The bill also promotes public-private partnerships, targeted investments in green technologies, digital innovation, and the creation of green jobs. These measures position it as a comprehensive roadmap for a modern, inclusive, and climate-adaptive sugarcane sector.

IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katrina', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

KATRINA REIKO CHUA - TAI



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AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE SUGARCANE INDUSTRY, INCREASING ITS ANNUAL
SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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 “Sugarcane Industry Development Enhancement Act.”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - The State shall promote agricultural modernization and rural development by strengthening the role of the sugarcane industry in ensuring food security, generating employment, promoting energy sustainability, and enhancing export revenue. To achieve this, the government shall strengthen the productivity and competitiveness of the sugarcane sector, ensure the welfare of sugarcane farmers and workers, promote value-adding technologies and downstream industries, and provide institutional support through sustained investment.

SECTION 3. Supplemental Budget. - To strengthen the implementation of Republic Act No. 10659, an annual supplemental budget of Five Billion Pesos (₱5,000,000,000) shall be allocated to the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) and its partner agencies, in addition to its regular appropriations under the General Appropriations Act (GAA).

The funds shall be used exclusively for:

1. Farm-to-mill roads and irrigation;
2. Farm mechanization and block farm consolidation;
3. Research and Development (R&D) in high-yielding and climate-resilient sugarcane varieties;
4. Scholarship and training programs for sugarcane workers and dependents;
5. Enterprise development and livelihood diversification;
6. Support for bioethanol, biomass, and co-product industries;
7. Crop insurance and social protection programs; and
8. Monitoring and evaluation systems.

1 At least 60% of the supplemental budget shall be allocated to smallholder sugarcane
2 farmers, agrarian reform beneficiaries, cooperatives, and associations to ensure access to
3 resources.

4 **SECTION 4. *Implementing Agencies.*** – The Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA)
5 shall be the lead implementing agency of this Act, in coordination with the Department of
6 Agriculture (DA), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Department of Trade and Industry
7 (DTI), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Technical Education and Skills
8 Development Authority (TESDA), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), and, where
9 applicable, the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP).

10 **SECTION 5. *Research, Innovation, and Training.*** – The Sugar Regulatory
11 Administration (SRA), in partnership with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST)
12 and higher education institutions, shall intensify research and development (R&D) programs
13 aimed at developing high-yielding, pest-resistant, and climate-resilient sugarcane varieties;
14 sustainable farming and harvesting technologies; innovations in sugar processing and co-
15 product utilization; and data-driven solutions to improve farm planning and market access.
16 These efforts shall be complemented by targeted training programs, in coordination with the
17 Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), to build the capacity of
18 farmers, workers, and cooperatives in adopting modern technologies, best practices, and
19 climate-smart techniques across the sugarcane value chain.

20 **SECTION 14. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision of this Act is declared
21 unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

22 **SECTION 15. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, executive orders, or regulations
23 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

24 **SECTION 16. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
25 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

26 *Approved,*