

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5308



Introduced by ABONO Party-list Representative
HON. ROBERT RAYMUND M. ESTRELLA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Twenty-eight (28) years after the enactment of Republic Act No. 8435, otherwise known as the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act of 1997 (AFMA), the agriculture and fisheries sector remains mired in persistent challenges. Despite multiple oversight bodies like the Congressional Oversight Committee on Agricultural and Fisheries Modernization (COCAFM) and the Congressional Oversight Committee on Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage (COCAAES), fragmented policy implementation continues to undermine modernization efforts. This measure therefore seeks to create a high-level, independent, and time-bound Congressional Commission on Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food Self-Sufficiency (AGRICOM), to harmonize mandates, conduct comprehensive review, and recommend coherent reforms for national food security.

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


Rep. Robert Raymund M. Estrella
ABONO Party-list

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Introduced by **ABONO Party-list Representative**
HON. ROBERT RAYMUND M. ESTRELLA

AN ACT
CREATING A CONGRESSIONAL COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE,
FISHERIES, AND FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY (AGRICOM) TO REVIEW, ASSESS,
AND EVALUATE THE STATE OF PHILIPPINE AGRICULTURE AND
RECOMMEND REFORMS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, 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 “Congressional Commission on Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food Self-Sufficiency (AGRICOM) Act.”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to promote agricultural modernization, food self-sufficiency, and rural industrialization by strengthening the welfare of farmers, fisherfolk, cooperatives, and agribusiness stakeholders. The State shall enhance institutional coordination among the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), and other concerned agencies.

SEC. 3. *Objectives.* – The AGRICOM shall: (a) conduct a comprehensive review of all agriculture and fisheries programs; (b) identify policy gaps and redundancies; (c) harmonize agency mandates; (d) promote innovation, climate resilience, and digital agriculture; (e) strengthen market linkages and post-harvest logistics; (f) encourage public-private partnerships; and (g) recommend targeted, measurable, and time-bound reforms.

SEC. 4. *Creation of the Commission.* – There is hereby created a Congressional Commission on Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food Self-Sufficiency (AGRICOM) tasked to review, assess, and recommend reforms to ensure a modern, efficient, sustainable, and food-secure agricultural sector.

SEC. 5. *Composition.* – The Commission shall be composed of twelve (12) members: six (6) from the Senate and six (6) from the House of Representatives, with at least one member from the Minority of each chamber. The Chairpersons of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform, and the House Committee on Agriculture and Food shall serve as Co-Chairpersons.

SEC. 6. *Duration.* – The AGRICOM shall accomplish its mandate within three (3) years from organization, unless extended by Congress.

SEC. 7. *Powers and Functions.* – The AGRICOM shall have the power to: (a) review and evaluate agriculture and fisheries bureaucracies and programs; (b) recommend structural and policy reforms; (c) hold hearings and summon witnesses; (d) engage with stakeholders; (e) commission studies; (f) recommend legislation; and (g) submit semi-annual and final reports to Congress.

SEC. 8. *Technical Secretariat.* – A Technical Secretariat, headed by an Executive Director with the rank of Executive Director IV, shall be organized to provide administrative and research support. The ED must be a recognized expert in agriculture and management.

SEC. 9. *Research Arm.* – The Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS), in coordination with State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) with agriculture and fisheries curricula, shall serve as the official research arm of the AGRICOM.

SEC. 10. *Advisory Council.* – An Agriculture and Fisheries Advisory Council shall assist the Commission. Its members shall come from academia, the business sector, LGUs, government agencies, and civil society organizations.

SEC. 11. *Standing Committees.* – The AGRICOM may form standing committees composed of members or experts from relevant sectors to facilitate consultations and technical studies.

SEC. 12. *Appropriations.* – An initial amount of Two Hundred Million Pesos (₱200,000,000.00) shall be appropriated for the implementation of this Act, chargeable against the current appropriations of Congress. Thereafter, necessary funds shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 13. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 14. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, rules, and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

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

Approved,