

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5662



Introduced by Representative **MARLYN L. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The agricultural and fisheries sectors are the backbone of the Philippine economy, providing food security, employment, and livelihood to millions of Filipinos. Despite their indispensable role, farmers and fisherfolk have long faced systemic challenges, ranging from limited access to resources and technology, to vulnerability to natural disasters and market fluctuations. These realities underscore the urgent need for sustained recognition and support for our food producers.

The Constitution itself mandates the State to “promote comprehensive rural development and agrarian reform” and to “protect the rights of farmers, farmworkers, and fishermen, and to provide support to agriculture through appropriate technology and research, and adequate financial, production, marketing, and other support services”.¹ This legislative measure is a concrete step towards fulfilling these constitutional directives.

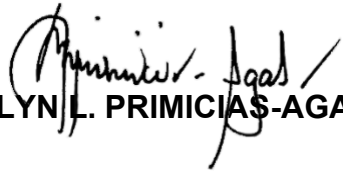
Recent laws, such as *Republic Act No. 11953*, otherwise known as the “*New Agrarian Emancipation Act*,” and *Republic Act No. 12022*, otherwise known as the “*Anti-Agricultural Sabotage Act*,” further reflect the State’s commitment to uplifting the welfare of farmers and fisherfolk, recognizing their central role in national development and food security. These statutes not only provide financial relief and protection from economic sabotage but also affirm the need for continuous government intervention and public awareness.

Declaring November as ‘Buwan ng Magbubukid at Mangingisda’ and May 15 as ‘Pambansang Araw ng mga Magbubukid’ institutionalizes a month-long and a special day of recognition, respectively, for our farmers and fisherfolk. This will serve as a platform for educational campaigns, policy dialogues, and community activities that highlight their contributions and address sectoral issues. It also aligns with the practice of designating commemorative periods to foster national consciousness and solidarity, as seen in other sectoral observances.

The proposed measure mandates the active participation of educational institutions and government agencies in the celebration, ensuring that the recognition of farmers and fisherfolk is not merely symbolic but is integrated into the national agenda. The provision for appropriations and inter-agency collaboration ensures that the implementation of this Act will be both meaningful and sustainable.

¹ Section 21, Article II; Section 5, Article XIII, 1987 Constitution.

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


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AN ACT

DECLARING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER AS 'BUWAN NG MAGBUBUKID AT MANGINGISDA' AND THE FIFTEENTH DAY OF MAY AS 'PAMBANSANG ARAW NG MGA MAGBUBUKID', APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as *the "National Farmers and Fisherfolk Month Act."*

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. It is the declared policy of the State to accord the highest priority to the development of agriculture and fishery and give farmers and fisherfolk more opportunities to maximize their incomes and increase their contribution to the nations' wealth. Towards this end, the State shall promote and increase awareness on the significant contribution of farmers and fisherfolk in nation building and their specific role in putting food on our tables.

SECTION 3. Buwan ng Magbubukid at Mangingisda. November of every year is hereby declared as "*Buwan ng Magbubukid at Mangingisda.*" All schools and relevant government offices shall ensure suitable celebration for the month-long event.

SECTION 4. Araw ng mga Magbubukid. - The fifteenth day of May every year is hereby declared as a special working holiday to be known as the "*Pambansang Araw ng mga Magbubukid.*"

SECTION 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations. Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Education, in collaboration with the Departments of Agriculture, Agrarian Reform, Science and Technology, Interior and Local Government, and Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and their attached offices shall formulate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SECTION 6. Appropriations. The amount necessary to initially implement the provisions of this Act shall be charged against the appropriations of the concerned departments and agencies for the current year. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the appropriations of the concerned departments and agencies in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

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

SECTION 8. Repealing Clause. All laws, executive orders, administrative orders, and rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SECTION 9. Effectivity Clause. This Act shall take effect fifteen days (15) after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,