

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5674



INTRODUCED BY REP. PATRICK MICHAEL “PM” D. VARGAS

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE FAIR AND EQUITABLE ALLOCATION OF FARM-TO-MARKET ROADS PROJECTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Agriculture remains the backbone of the Philippine economy, providing livelihood to millions of Filipinos, especially in rural areas. However, inadequate infrastructure continues to hamper the efficient transport of goods from production sites to markets. Poor road access limits farmers’ productivity, reduces their income, and discourages investments in rural communities.

Farm-to-market roads (FMRs) are critical in connecting farmers and fisherfolk to economic opportunities. Yet, the distribution of FMR projects across regions has often been uneven, with some provinces and municipalities consistently receiving fewer projects despite their agricultural potential.

This bill seeks to promote fair and equitable allocation of farm-to-market road projects of the Department of Agriculture. It establishes a transparent formula for distributing FMR appropriations among provinces and municipalities based on population, land area, and equitable sharing. By ensuring a more balanced allocation, this measure aims to maximize government resources and allow optimum economic growth where needed.

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


REP. PATRICK MICHAEL “PM” D. VARGAS

Fifth District, Quezon City

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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 “*Farm-to-Market Roads for All Act*.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to encourage rural development and to empower the agricultural sector towards meaningful and inclusive economic development. Accordingly, the State shall provide for the development of the agricultural sector of the entire country, through the fair and equitable provision of adequate and appropriate services, infrastructure, and resources. With this end in view, the State shall ensure the effective utilization of government resources through the establishment of a mechanism that would ensure the fair and equitable allocation of farm-to-market road projects of the Department of Agriculture (DA).

SECTION 3. *Definition of Farm-to-Market Road.* – For purposes of this Act, the term “Farm-to-Market Road” refers to the road linking the agriculture and fisheries production sites, coastal landing points, and post-harvest facilities to the markets, and arterial roads or highways.

SECTION 4. *Allocation of Farm-to-Market Roads.* – Notwithstanding any provision of the law to the contrary, the appropriation for farm-to-market road

projects under the DA shall be allocated among provinces and municipalities in the following manner:

- a. Thirty percent (30%) of farm-to-market road appropriations to be allocated for provinces; and
- b. Seventy percent (70%) of farm-to-market road appropriations to be allocated for municipalities:

Provided, That the share of each province and municipality shall be determined on the basis of the following formula:

- c. Twenty-five percent (25%) of farm-to-market road appropriations to be allocated pro rata according to the population of the province or municipality in relation to the total population of the country;
- d. Fifty percent (50%) of farm-to-market road appropriations to be allocated pro rata according to the land area of the municipality in relation to the total land area of the country; and
- e. Twenty-five percent (25%) of farm-to-market road appropriations to be allocated equally among the provinces or municipalities.

SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DA shall, in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to efficiently implement the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision or part not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SECTION 8. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,