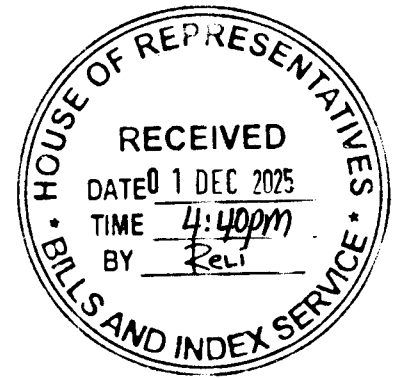


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **6516**



**Introduced by Representative JB BERNOS
And Representative CHING BERNOS**

**AN ACT ACCELERATING FARM LAND LEVELING AND REHABILITATION IN
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AREAS TO ENHANCE PRODUCTIVITY AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Agriculture remains the backbone of the Philippine economy, providing livelihood to around one-third of the labor force and feeding over 115 million Filipinos. Yet, as of 2025, agricultural productivity continues to lag behind neighboring ASEAN countries, hampered by fragmented farm lands, poor mechanization, and degraded soil conditions. The recent El Niño phenomenon has further exposed the country's vulnerability, drying up irrigation sources and reducing rice and corn yields by as much as 15% in the first quarter of the year. These conditions reveal a long-standing need to rehabilitate and level agricultural lands to ensure efficient water use, enhance mechanization, and improve farm output across rural communities.

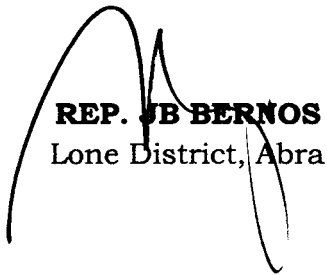
Article XII, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution provides that "the goals of the national economy are a more equitable distribution of opportunities, income, and wealth; sustained increase in the amount of goods and services produced by the nation for the benefit of the people; and an expanding productivity as the key to raising the quality of life for all." This measure is consistent with the constitutional mandate to develop agriculture and agrarian reform as a primary driver of inclusive growth and rural progress. It also complements Section 21 of Republic Act No. 8435 or the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act of 1997, which directs the State to promote efficient land use and farm mechanization through modern technologies and engineering interventions.

The proposed Bangon Bukid Act seeks to accelerate farm land leveling and rehabilitation in agricultural production areas nationwide. Specifically, it aims to (1) restructure uneven or degraded farmlands to allow efficient irrigation and drainage, (2) integrate mechanized farming systems to reduce postharvest losses

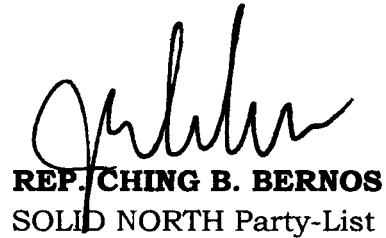
and labor inefficiencies, and (3) strengthen farmer productivity and resilience against climate-induced risks such as droughts and flooding. The bill establishes the National Farm Land Leveling and Reconstruction Program (NFLRP) under the Department of Agriculture, to be implemented by the Bureau of Agricultural and Fisheries Engineering (BAFE) in partnership with agencies like PhilRice, PhilMech, and the National Irrigation Administration.

This measure likewise provides for engineering standards for farm reconstruction, promotes contiguous and block farming, and ensures that smallholder farmers gain access to modern machinery and financial assistance. By restoring land productivity and enabling mechanization, the program will help reduce production costs, enhance rural employment, and contribute to national food security goals.

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



REP. JB BERNOS
Lone District, Abra



REP. CHING B. BERNOS
SOLID NORTH Party-List

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**AN ACT ACCELERATING FARM LAND LEVELING AND REHABILITATION IN
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RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

*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 “Bangon Bukid Act.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to modernize farms and ensure food security by increasing farm productivity, reduce postharvest losses, and improve product quality and competitiveness through complete farm mechanization and efficient land management. The State shall accelerate farm land leveling and reconstruction in all agricultural areas in the country, ensuring efficient farm mechanization, irrigation, transport, and economies of scale.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. – For the purpose of this Act, the following terms are defined:

- (a) Farm Land Leveling and Reconstruction - refers to the process of restructuring the farm area by scraping high points (soil mounds) and moving soil to low points (depressions) to increase the sizes of farm plots;
- (b) Contiguous farming - refers to a farming system which comprises the development and organization of parcels adjoining or adjacent agricultural lands with a minimum total area of fifty (50) hectares for the synchronized production of a particular crop; and
- (c) Farm Development Plan - refers to a plan containing a) the right and appropriate kind/s of crops, livestock and fisheries to be planted or raised in the farm; b) the irrigation, farm-to-market access roads, agricultural and

fisheries machineries and equipment, postharvest and agro-processing facilities to be established, constructed, operated and maintained; and c) the improvement and maintenance of agricultural spatial and biophysical conditions in these farms

SEC. 4. Establishment of the National Farm Land Leveling and Reconstruction Program. – There is hereby established a National Farm Land Leveling and Reconstruction Program (NFLRP) under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture (DA), in coordination with the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), and local government units (LGUs).

The Program shall:

- (a) Identify and prioritize farmlands affected by degradation, flooding, or drought for rehabilitation;
- (b) Implement mechanized land leveling integrated with irrigation and drainage systems;
- (c) Provide engineering support to smallholder farmers through accredited agricultural and biosystems engineers;
- (d) Facilitate farmer access to machinery, credit and technical services, and assist them in reconstructing their farm lands towards attaining suitable shapes and sizes for efficient irrigation, mechanization, transport and economies of scale, as well as farm development planning; and
- (e) Integrate land leveling efforts with the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Plan, Land Consolidation, Contiguous or Block Farming Program, the Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Program, and other government rural productivity initiatives.

SEC. 5. Implementing and Partner Agencies. – The Bureau of Agricultural and Fisheries Engineering (BAFE) under the Department of Agriculture shall be the implementing agency of the Program. It shall tap the assistance, expertise, and resources of the following agencies, such as the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice), Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM), Philippine Center for Post-Harvest Development and Mechanization (PhilMech), and the National Irrigation Administration (NIA).

BAFE shall likewise collaborate and secure technical support and assistance of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and the Agricultural Engineering Groups of LGUs.

SEC. 6. Design and Construction Standards. – BAFE, in collaboration with PhilRice, BAFS, Professional Regulatory Board of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering, and the Philippine Society of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineers shall develop and enforce farm land leveling and reconstruction standards.

SEC. 7. Appropriations. – The amount of One Billion Pesos (₱1,000,000,000) shall be initially appropriated for the implementation of the Program. Thereafter, the

necessary sums shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act under BAFE the following year.

SEC. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with BAFE, PhilMech, PhilRice, and BSWM, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the implementation of this Act..

SEC. 9. Separability Clause. – If any portions or provisions of this Act are declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining portions or provisions not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 10. Repealing Clause. – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, memoranda, circulars, and other issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,