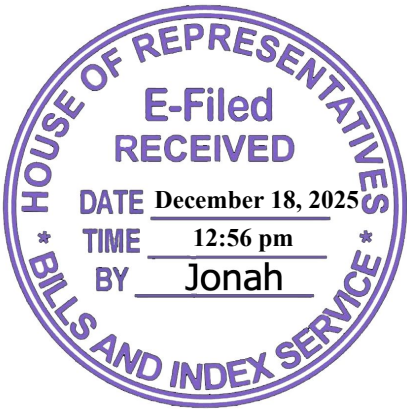


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Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City
TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 6977

Introduced by Hon. Julianne "Jam" L. Baronda

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Agriculture remains a vital pillar of national development, serving as a primary source of food security, employment, and livelihood, especially in the countryside. Despite the abundance of agricultural produce in many provinces, farmers and fisherfolk continue to suffer from low farmgate prices, high post-harvest losses, inadequate market access, and the dominance of middlemen in the supply chain. These challenges result in reduced incomes for producers and higher prices for consumers.

This proposed measure seeks to address these persistent issues by mandating the establishment of **Agri-Food Terminals and Trading Centers in every province**. These facilities shall serve as organized hubs for the consolidation, storage, processing, marketing, and distribution of agricultural and fishery products. By providing modern infrastructure such as cold storage, warehouses, trading floors, and basic processing facilities, the terminals will help minimize post-harvest losses, improve product quality, and ensure fair and transparent trading.

The establishment of agri-food terminals will directly link farmers, fisherfolk, cooperatives, and small agribusiness enterprises to institutional buyers, processors, exporters, and consumers. This streamlined market system is expected to enhance price stability, reduce unnecessary layers in the distribution chain, and improve the competitiveness of local agricultural products in both domestic and international markets.

Moreover, the bill provides for the necessary funding and institutional support to ensure the sustainable operation of these trading centers, in coordination with relevant national government agencies, local government units, and the private sector. Priority shall be given to empowering small farmers and fisherfolk, promoting inclusive growth, and strengthening local food systems.

In light of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought in order to promote agricultural development, increase rural incomes, stabilize food supply and prices, and advance national food security.

HON. JULIENNE "JAM" L. BARONDA
Representative
Lone District, Iloilo City

50 Republic of the Philippines
51 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
52 Batasan Hills, Quezon City
53 TWENTIETH CONGRESS
54 First Regular Session
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57 HOUSE BILL NO. 6977
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59
60 Introduced by Hon. Julianne "Jam" L. Baronda
61

62
63 AN ACT
64 MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AGRI-FOOD TERMINALS AND
65 TRADING CENTERS IN EVERY PROVINCE PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND
66 FOR OTHER PURPOSES
67

68 *Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in*
69 *Congress assembled:*
70

71 **Section 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "Agri-Food Terminal and Trading
72 Centers Act."
73

74 **Section 2. Declaration of Principles and State Policies.** – It is hereby declared the policy
75 of the State to give aid to farmers by providing venue to promote and market their produce and
76 giving them access to buyers who can offer competitive prices. Towards this end, a
77 comprehensive program for the creation of a nationwide system of agricultural food terminals
78 and trading centers is hereby established.
79

80 The goal of these centers is to provide an avenue where farmers and livestock raisers can
81 directly sell their products to institutional buyers and gain higher profit; moreover, this endeavor
82 for a higher mobility for locally produced agricultural products to the whole country for cheaper
83 cost of transportation.
84

85 **Section 3. Definition of Terms.** - As used in this Act:
86

- 87 a. *Agri-Food Terminals* – a centralized facility in a province where agricultural products are
88 assembled, stored, processed, and distributed.
89 b. *Trading Center* – a facility that enables direct transactions between producers and buyers,
90 including institutional markets, wholesalers, and retailers.
91 c. *Smallholder Farmers and Fisherfolk* – agricultural workers with limited access to
92 resources, land, and capital.
93

94 **Section 4. Establishment of Agri-Food Terminals and Trading Centers** – The Department
95 of Agriculture (DA), in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways
96 (DPWH), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and concerned LGUs, shall
97 establish and manage an Agri-Food Terminals and Trading Center in every province within five
98 (5) years from the effectivity of this Act. Cities and municipalities are hereby encouraged to
99 establish their own Agri-Food Terminals and Trading Centers.
100

101 Agri-Food Terminal and Trading Centers shall have the following standards for their creation
102 and operation:
103

- 104 a. It shall be mandatory for the province to setup at least one Agri-food Terminal and
105 Trading Center adjacent to a train stations located within the jurisdiction of the province
106 concerned.

- b. In provinces where there is no train station, Agri-food Terminal and Trading Center shall be set up strategically near ports, bus terminals or any transport hub within the jurisdiction of the province concerned.
- c. For the first two (2) years from the date of operation, terminals/centers shall concentrate on the top three (3) agricultural products of the province. The list shall be expanded to five after this period.
- d. Each center shall be equipped with a warehousing center, cold storage and any similar facilities necessary to accommodate and store agriculture product.

Section 5. Work Plan. - In line with this Act, the Department of Agriculture shall develop the following:

- a. A plan of bringing the program down to the grassroots, utilizing available personnel and facilities on the local level and those of LGUs;
- b. A pattern of cooperation and mutual assistance with LGUs, Peoples Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations, which will maximize people empowerment and participatory approaches to program formulation, implementation and monitoring; and
- c. A schedule of short-term, medium-term and long-term targets on research and development, marketing, trade promotion/initiatives, capacity building, among others.

Section 6. Funding. - The amount of Twenty-Five billion (Php 25,000,000,000) is hereby appropriated for the initial year of implementation of this act, thereafter, the amount of Ten Billion pesos (Php 10,000,000,000) shall be included in the budget of the Department for implementation and continued expansion of this program. In addition, the establishment and operation of terminals and centers will be made with the available participatory funding from the national government with adequate equity from the Local Government Units.

Section 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Interior and Local Government, in consultation with appropriate government agencies and other stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act. The implementing rules and regulations shall include a template to guide the cities and municipalities in the establishment of their own Agri-food Terminals and Trading Centers.

Section 8. Separability Clause. - If any part or provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 9. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, executive orders, memorandum orders, memorandum circulars, administrative orders, ordinances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 10. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of national circulation.

Approved,