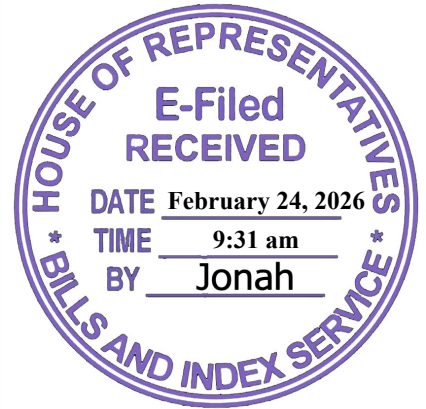


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 8025

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE AUDREY KAY T. ZUBIRI**

AN ACT
DECLARING JANUARY TWENTY-TWO OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL
WORKING HOLIDAY TO BE KNOWN AS NATIONAL FARMERS' DAY

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Agriculture has always been more than an economic activity in the Philippines. It is the living heart of our society. Yet today, even as Filipino farmers continue to feed the nation, their role is too often overlooked. The sector remains a pillar of national stability: agriculture employs around 22–23% of the country's workforce even as its share of the national GDP hovers between 9–10%¹, revealing a profound imbalance between the importance of farmers and the economic rewards they receive. Despite this discrepancy, our farmers persist—sustaining households, supporting rural economies, and ensuring that food remains accessible to millions of Filipino families.

And yet, these same men and women endure some of the harshest socio-economic conditions in the country. Poverty remains staggering among farmers, with 27% of them living below the poverty line², making them one of the most economically vulnerable sectors in the Philippines. This hardship is further compounded by the reality that the average Filipino rice farmer is now 56 years old, part of an aging workforce shouldering rising production costs that surged from ₱65,000 per hectare in 2023 to ₱75,000 in 2024³, even as farm incomes remain largely stagnant. These stark numbers speak to a looming crisis—one in which fewer

¹ [BCS010-Agriculture-in-the-Philippines.pdf](#)

² [PSA Data: Poverty declines, indigenous peoples, farmers struggle → Context.ph](#)

³ [A Farmer's Legacy and the Future of Philippine Agriculture – Industry Strategic Science and Technology Plans \(ISPs\) Platform](#)

young people see a future in farming, and yet the nation remains deeply dependent on those who remain in the fields.

Instituting a special working holiday every January 22 will encourage government agencies, private employers, schools, and local communities to organize educational, cultural, and livelihood-related activities that uplift and honor farmers. This measure aligns with the State's responsibility to promote rural development, empower agricultural workers, and ensure a sustainable and resilient agricultural sector.

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


AUDREY KAY T. ZUBIRI
Representative, 3rd District of Bukidnon

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** The twenty-second day of January of every year is hereby
2 declared as a special working holiday to be known as "National Farmer's Day".
3

4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** — To ensure meaningful observance of the holiday as
5 herein declared, all heads of government agencies and instrumentalities, including government-
6 owned and controlled corporations especially those that are dealing directly with the farmers
7 as well as local government units, and employers in the private sector shall encourage and
8 afford sufficient time and opportunities for their employees to engage and participate in any
9 activity conducted within the premises of their respective offices or establishments in support
10 and sympathy to farmers across the country to celebrate "National Farmer's Day".
11

12 **SEC. 3.** This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the
13 Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.
14

15 *Approved,*