



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



Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8253

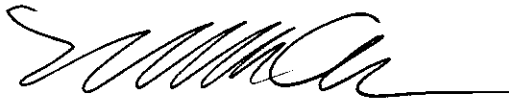
Introduced by Honorable Roger G. Mercado

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish a specialized national high school focused on agro-forestry in Barangay Basak, Maasin City, Southern Leyte — an area with rich agricultural lands and forest resources. The school will equip the youth with practical skills in sustainable farming, forest conservation, and agribusiness, addressing rural poverty, climate change, and food security while supporting the national K to 12 and Rural Farm Schools programs.

The measure is consistent with precedents such as Republic Act No. 7031 (Ruparan Agricultural High School), Republic Act No. 7053 (West Coast Agricultural High School), and Republic Act No. 10618 (Rural Farm Schools).

Therefore, passage of this bill is hereby being earnestly sought.


ROGER G. MERCADO



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HOUSE BILL NO. 8253

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE BASAK AGRO-FORESTRY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN
BARANGAY BASAK, CITY OF MAASIN, PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. — This Act shall be known as the “Basak Agro-Forestry National High School Act of 2026.”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. — It is the policy of the State to promote quality, accessible, and relevant basic education, particularly technical-vocational-livelihood (TVL) education in agriculture, forestry, and environmental sciences, consistent with Article XIV, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution, Republic Act No. 10533 (Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013), and Republic Act No. 10618 (Rural Farm Schools Act).

SECTION 3. Establishment. — There is hereby established a national public secondary school in Barangay Basak, City of Maasin, Province of Southern Leyte, to be known as the **Basak Agro-Forestry National High School (BAFHS)**. The school shall offer complete Junior High School (Grades 7–10) and Senior High School (Grades 11–12) programs with a specialized agro-forestry track.

SECTION 4. Location. — The school shall be located on a suitable site within Barangay Basak, City of Maasin, to be identified and acquired by the Department of Education (DepEd) in coordination with the City Government of Maasin, the Barangay Council of Basak, the Department of Agriculture (DA), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and other concerned agencies. The City Government may donate or lease land for school buildings, laboratories, demonstration farms, nurseries, and forest plots.

SECTION 5. Curriculum. — The curriculum shall be prescribed by the DepEd and shall integrate the K to 12 Basic Education Program with a strong emphasis on agro-forestry, sustainable agriculture, forest management, climate-resilient farming, agribusiness, value-adding technologies, environmental science, and related TVL strands. The school shall seek accreditation under the DepEd's Rural Farm Schools Program and may enter into memoranda of agreement with TESDA, DA, DENR, state universities and colleges, and private sector partners for dual training, certification, and practicum programs.

SECTION 6. Administration and Supervision. — The Basak Agro-Forestry National High School shall be under the direct supervision and administration of the DepEd through the Schools Division of Maasin City. The school shall be entitled to all benefits and privileges accorded to other national high schools. The City Government of Maasin shall provide auxiliary support in infrastructure, maintenance, and community linkages.

SECTION 7. Appropriation. — The amount of **One Hundred Million Pesos (Php 100,000,000.00)**, or such amount as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated from the National Treasury or from any available funds in the General Appropriations Act of the year following the approval of this Act and thereafter, for the establishment, construction of school buildings and facilities, procurement of equipment, instructional materials, demonstration farm development, initial operations, and faculty training of the Basak Agro-Forestry National High School. Subsequent funding requirements shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, and other relevant agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 9. Separability Clause. — If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain subsisting and in full force and effect.

SECTION 10. Repealing Clause. — All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SECTION 11. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,