

**Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City**

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session**

House Bill No. 8376



**Introduced by TUCP Partylist Representative
HON. RAYMOND DEMOCRITO C. MENDOZA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Today, a brewing socioeconomic storm is battering our rural economy. An avalanche of imported sugar, unchecked molasses importation, and the unregulated entry of sugar substitutes have converged into a perfect storm that threatens to drown farmers, millers, and workers who have already borne far too much. This sugar crisis is the product of decisions made without honest-to-goodness consultation, without crystal clear transparency, and without regard for those who toil from dawn to dusk in our fields and mills.

We in the TUCP Party-list heard the pleas of our sugar millers, planters, farmers, and workers who are now being asked to work harder for less and to compete against forces they did not create and cannot control. We engaged our sugar industry stakeholders, National Congress of Unions in the Sugar Industry of the Philippines (NACUSIP-TUCP) and its Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Council and its allied organizations, united in calling for long-term solutions and not long-term importation that has failed us time and again.

The Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) was created with a clear mandate to stabilize prices at levels fair to both producers and consumers. That mandate cannot be fulfilled by importation or even by pausing importation alone. And certainly not by issuing one sugar order after another prior to or even without consultation, without the full publication of all minutes and deliberations, and without the full representation of all the relevant stakeholders. The SRA must be overhauled and be represented and led by true champions of the sugar industry. The SRA was created under Executive Order No. 18 in 1986 before the passage of Republic Act No. 6657 or the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988. Today, around 80% of sugar production now comes from farms of agrarian reform beneficiaries.

Therefore, this proposed measure seeks to amend Executive Order No. 18, outlining seven sectoral members, namely (i) sugar millers; (ii) sugar planters; (iii) sugar agrarian reform beneficiaries; (iv) sugar field workers; (v) sugar mill workers; (vi) sugar ethanol workers; and (vii) consumer groups who shall be appointed by the President of the Republic of the Philippines upon the recommendation of their respective sectors in the sugar industry.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought because this is more than about sugar but about food security, rural employment, and social justice.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Raymond', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

HON. RAYMOND DEMOCRITO C. MENDOZA
TUCP Partylist Representative

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**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF SUGAR MILLERS,
SUGAR PLANTERS, SUGAR AGRARIAN REFORM BENEFICIARIES,
SUGAR FIELD WORKERS, SUGAR MILL WORKERS, SUGAR ETHANOL
WORKERS, AND CONSUMER GROUPS TO THE SUGAR BOARD OF THE
SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION, AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 18 CREATING A SUGAR
REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION**

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

SECTION 1. – Section 4 of Executive Order No. 18 is hereby amended to read as follows:

SECTION 4. Governing Body: Sugar Board. - All corporate powers of the Sugar Regulatory Administration shall be vested in, and exercised by, the Sugar Board. The Board shall be composed of an Administrator, who shall act as its chairman, to be appointed by the President of the Philippines, and [two (2)] **SEVEN (7) SECTORAL members, REPRESENTING SUGAR MILLERS, SUGAR PLANTERS, SUGAR AGRARIAN REFORM BENEFICIARIES, SUGAR FIELD WORKERS, MILL WORKERS, ETHANOL WORKERS, AND CONSUMER GROUPS.** The **SEVEN (7) SECTORAL** [two] members of the Board shall likewise be appointed by the president of the Philippines upon the recommendation of [the] **THEIR RESPECTIVE SECTORS IN THE** sugar industry. [with one member representing the millers and the other representing the planters]

The Sugar Board shall meet in regular session once a month. The Board may be called by the Chairman or both private sector's representatives to a special session as the need arises.

The Administrator shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Sugar Regulatory Administration.

SECTION 2. *Separability Clause* – If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions or parts of this act shall remain in full force and effect, and the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected.

SECTION 3. *Repealing Clause*. - All laws, orders, issuances, rules, and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 4 *Effectivity*. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,