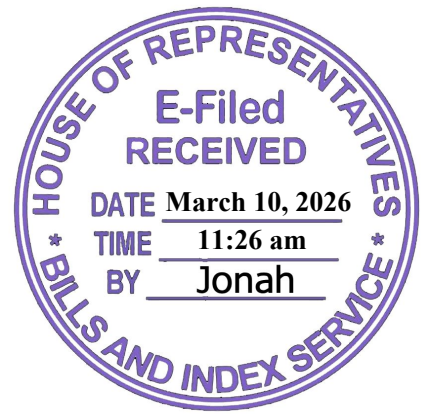


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 8399



Introduced by Representative ERIC G. YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish the Lingkod Agricultural Pension Fund to provide a sustainable and dedicated pension system for farmers and fisherfolk who have long sustained the nation's food security yet remain among the most economically vulnerable sectors in society.

Farmers and fisherfolk form the backbone of the Philippine economy. They ensure the steady supply of food to Filipino households, contribute significantly to rural development, and help stabilize national markets. Despite their invaluable role, many agricultural workers reach old age without adequate savings, social protection, or access to formal retirement benefits. Unlike employees in the public and private sectors who are covered by established pension systems, a large number of small-scale farmers and fisherfolk operate in the informal economy and remain excluded from meaningful retirement security.

This measure addresses that gap by creating the Agricultural Pension Fund (APF), a dedicated fund that will provide pension benefits to qualified agricultural workers, especially farmers and fisherfolk, upon reaching retirement age.

By establishing a structured and government-backed pension mechanism, this bill recognizes the dignity of agricultural labor and affirms the State's commitment to inclusive social protection. It provides long-overdue security to farmers and fisherfolk who have devoted their lives to feeding the nation and deserve stability and support in their retirement years.

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


HON. ERIC G. YAP

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **8399**

Introduced by Representative ERIC G. YAP

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING AN AGRICULTURAL PENSION FUND TO PROVIDE
PENSION BENEFITS TO FARMERS AND FISHERFOLK, 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 “*Lingkod Agricultural Pension Fund Act*”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — It is hereby declared a policy of the State to, from time to time, review to upgrade the pensions and other benefits due to retirees of both the government and private sectors. It acknowledges that farmers and fisher folk are integral part to the country's development, and therefore shall accord due recognition to their great contribution by providing them with pension benefits to assist them with their basic needs when they reach the age of retirement.

SEC. 3. *Creation of the Agricultural Pension Fund.* — There is hereby established an Agricultural Pension Fund (APF) that shall provide pension benefits to agricultural workers, especially farmers and fisher folk.

SEC. 4. *Implementing Agency.* — The Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC), an attached agency of the Department of Agriculture (DA), shall be the implementing agency of the provisions of this Act. In addition to its existing duties and responsibilities, it shall:

- a. Create a pension plan for agricultural pensioners;
- b. Manage and invest the APF to ensure its sustainability;
- c. Determine the criteria for eligibility, in coordination with relevant government agencies; and

d. Perform other duties and functions towards the efficient and effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the PCIC Board of Directors, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture and representatives of recognized farmers and fisherfolks groups, shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 6. *Appropriations.* – Such amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual appropriations of the DA.

SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen days (15) after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,