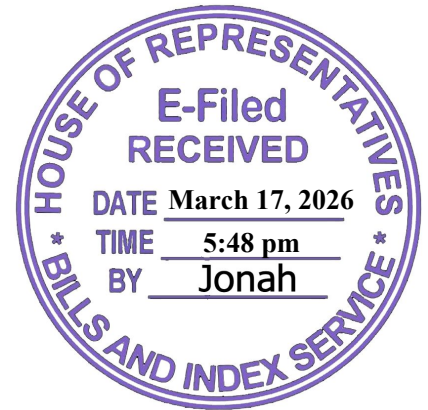


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 8634



Introduced by Representatives ERIC G. YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish the Benguet Agricultural Logistics and Transport Support Program to assist highland vegetable farmers in the Province of Benguet by providing organized logistics, transport support facilities, and market linkages that will reduce post-harvest losses and improve the efficiency of transporting agricultural products from farms to major markets across the country.

The Province of Benguet serves as one of the primary sources of semi-temperate vegetables in the Philippines, supplying significant volumes of produce to major urban markets throughout Luzon. Farmers in the province play a critical role in ensuring the steady supply of fresh vegetables that contribute to the country's food security and agricultural economy. However, despite their vital contribution, many vegetable farmers continue to face serious challenges in bringing their produce to market.

One of the major constraints confronting farmers in Benguet is the high cost and inefficiency of transporting vegetables from remote farming areas to trading centers and urban markets. Many farmers rely on fragmented and privately arranged transport systems that often result in delayed deliveries, higher transportation costs, and increased post-harvest losses due to improper handling and inadequate logistics infrastructure. These challenges significantly reduce the income of farmers and limit the profitability and sustainability of vegetable farming in the province.

Recognizing these challenges, this measure proposes the establishment of a government-supported agricultural logistics and transport assistance program that will provide transport support services, establish agricultural transport hubs, deploy vegetable transport vehicles, and improve the coordination of vegetable distribution systems linking Benguet farmers to major markets across the country. The bill also strengthens collaboration among the Department of Agriculture, the Provincial Government of Benguet, the Department of Trade and Industry, and the Department of Public Works and Highways to ensure an efficient and sustainable agricultural logistics system for the province.

Improving transport efficiency, reducing post-harvest losses, and strengthening market access will increase the income of vegetable farmers, enhance the competitiveness of Benguet's agricultural sector, and ensure the continuous supply of highland vegetables to markets nationwide.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is respectfully sought.



HON. ERIC G. YAP

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **8634**

Introduced by Representatives ERIC G. YAP

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE BENGUET AGRICULTURAL LOGISTICS AND
TRANSPORT SUPPORT PROGRAM TO ASSIST HIGHLAND VEGETABLE
FARMERS IN THE PROVINCE OF BENGUET, 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 “*Benguet Agricultural Logistics Support Act.*”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - The State recognizes the vital role of farmers in ensuring national food security and sustaining the agricultural economy. It shall adopt policies that improve agricultural productivity, reduce post-harvest losses, and increase the income of farmers.

The Province of Benguet is the country’s primary source of semi-temperate vegetables, supplying major markets across Luzon. However, farmers continue to face significant challenges in transporting their produce due to high transportation costs, inadequate logistics support, and the absence of organized vegetable transport systems.

Towards this end, the State shall establish a government-supported agricultural logistics and transport assistance program to reduce post-harvest losses, improve market access, and increase the profitability of vegetable farming in Benguet.

SEC. 3. *Establishment of the Benguet Agricultural Logistics and Transport Support Program.* - There is hereby established a Benguet Agricultural Logistics and Transport Support Program to assist farmers in transporting vegetables and other agricultural products from farms and trading posts to major markets across the country.

The program shall provide logistical support including but not limited to:

- a. Transport assistance for farmers and farmer cooperatives;
- b. Establishment of agricultural transport hubs;
- c. Deployment of government-supported vegetable transport vehicles;
and
- d. Improvement of vegetable distribution systems linking Benguet to major markets.

SEC. 4. *Agricultural Transport Support Facilities.* - The Department of Agriculture (DA), in coordination with the Provincial Government of Benguet, shall establish Agricultural Transport Support Facilities in strategic areas within the province to facilitate the efficient transport of vegetables.

These facilities shall include:

- a. Vegetable consolidation loading stations;
- b. Packaging and handling areas to reduce damage during transport; and
- c. Coordinated scheduling of transport vehicles to major trading centers.

SEC. 5. *Priority Access for Farmer Cooperatives.* - Duly registered farmers' cooperatives and associations in the Province of Benguet shall be given priority access to the logistics and transport support services under this Act. The Department of Agriculture shall assist farmer organizations in organizing collective transport systems to reduce transportation costs.

SEC. 6. *Institutional Market Linkages.* - The Department of Agriculture and the Department of Trade and Industry shall assist Benguet farmers in establishing transport routes and supply agreements with:

- a. Major urban markets;
- b. Institutional buyers such as hospitals, schools, and government feeding programs;
- c. Supermarkets and food distribution companies; and
- d. Other regional trading centers across the country.

SEC. 7. *Implementing Agencies.* - The Department of Agriculture shall serve as the lead implementing agency in coordination with: The Provincial Government of Benguet, The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), and Farmers' cooperatives and organizations.

SEC. 8. *Funding.* - The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act under the Department of Agriculture. The Provincial Government of Benguet and partner agencies may also provide counterpart funding for infrastructure and equipment.

SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within one hundred eighty (180) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Agriculture, in coordination with the Provincial Government of Benguet, shall promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations.

SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,