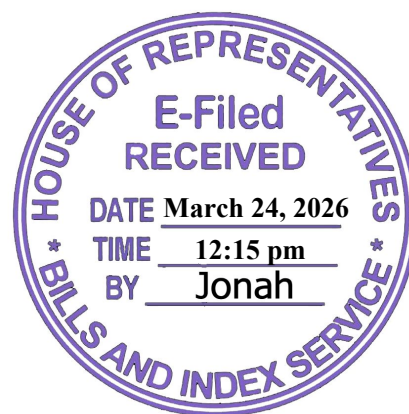


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **8740**



Introduced by **REP. NATHANIEL “Atty. Nat” M. ODUCAO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Mindanao plays a critical role in ensuring the Philippines’ food security and agricultural productivity. The island possesses vast agricultural lands, favorable climatic conditions, and abundant fisheries resources that allow it to contribute significantly to the country’s food supply.

Studies show that Mindanao produces around 40% of the country’s food requirements and contributes over 30% of the Philippines’ total food trade, making it a key pillar of the national food system. In addition, Mindanao accounts for about one-third of the country’s total agricultural production, with the region dominating the production of several key commodities such as bananas, pineapples, coconuts, corn, and cacao. The island produces more than 80% of the Philippines’ bananas, one of the country’s major agricultural exports.

Despite this immense potential, Mindanao’s agricultural sector continues to face several structural challenges, including inadequate infrastructure, limited access to credit and modern technology, insufficient research and development support, and logistical constraints that affect the efficient movement of agricultural goods.

This bill seeks to formally declare Mindanao as the “Food Basket of the Philippines” and to establish a comprehensive framework to strengthen agricultural development in the region. The measure promotes investments in agricultural infrastructure, research and innovation, climate-resilient farming practices, access to financing, and stronger market linkages for farmers and fisherfolk.

By strengthening agricultural productivity and support systems in Mindanao, the State aims to enhance national food security, stimulate rural economic development, and improve the livelihoods of farmers and fisherfolk across the region.

¹Philippine Institute for Development Studies. (2020). Innovate agri sector to ensure food security, boost resilience amid pandemic and other crises. Available at <https://www.pids.gov.ph/details/innovate-agri-sector-to-ensure-food-security-boost-resilience-amid-pandemic-and-other-crises>

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Oducado', with a small circular stamp or mark at the end of the signature.

REP. NATHANIEL “ATTY. NAT” M. ODOCADO
1Tahanan Party List

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **8740**

Introduced by **REP. NATHANIEL “ATTY. NAT” M. ODUCAO**

**AN ACT DECLARING MINDANAO AS THE FOOD BASKET OF THE PHILIPPINES,
PROVIDING FOR ITS SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “*Mindanao Food Basket Act*”.

2 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to ensure
3 national food security, alleviate poverty, and promote inclusive economic growth through the
4 sustainable development of the agricultural and fisheries sectors. Towards this end, the State
5 recognizes Mindanao's crucial role as the primary source of the nation's food supply and shall
6 prioritize its development as the “Food Basket of the Philippines.”

7 **SEC. 3. *Declaration of Mindanao as the Food Basket of the Philippines.*** – Mindanao,
8 comprising its various regions and provinces, is hereby officially declared the “Food Basket of the
9 Philippines” in recognition of its significant contribution to the country's agricultural and fisheries
10 production and its immense potential for further growth.

11 **SEC. 4. *Sustainable Agricultural Development Mandate.*** – To realize Mindanao's full
12 potential as the Food Basket of the Philippines, the following shall be prioritized and implemented
13 by relevant government agencies, including but not limited to the Department of Agriculture (DA),
14 Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Department of Environment and Natural Resources
15 (DENR), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Trade and Industry
16 (DTI), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), and local government units (LGUs):

- 17 a) Infrastructure Development: Accelerate the construction and rehabilitation of vital
18 agricultural infrastructure, including irrigation systems, farm-to-markets roads,
19 post-harvest facilities, cold storage, and modern port facilities;
- 20 b) Research and Development (R&D): Intensify R&D initiatives for climate-resilient
21 crops, improved livestock and aquaculture practices, pest and disease management,
22 and value-adding technologies;

- 1 c) Access to Credit and Markets: Facilitate farmers and fisherfolks access to
2 affordable credit, crop insurance, and direct market linkages, reducing reliance on
3 intermediaries.
- 4 d) Capacity Building and Extension Services: Provide comprehensive training
5 programs, technical assistance, and extension services on modern farming
6 techniques, sustainable agriculture, and entrepreneurship.
- 7 e) Sustainable Practices: Promote and incentivize environmentally sound and
8 sustainable agricultural practices, including organic farming, agroforestry, and
9 responsible resource management.
- 10 f) Investment Promotion: Attract and facilitate public and private investments in
11 Mindanao's agricultural and agribusiness sectors, including processing and
12 manufacturing.
- 13 g) Peace and Order: Sustain efforts to ensure peace and stability in Mindanao, creating
14 a secure environment conducive to agricultural productivity and investment.

15 **SEC. 5. *Mindanao Food Basket Development Council.*** – A Mindanao Food Basket
16 Development Council (MFBDC) shall be created to be chaired by the Secretary of the Department
17 of Agriculture, with representatives from relevant government agencies, local government units,
18 and agricultural stakeholders in Mindanao. The MFBDC shall be responsible for formulating,
19 coordinating, and monitoring the implementation of strategic plans and programs to achieve the
20 objectives of this Act.

21 **SEC. 6. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act
22 shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

23 **SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within ninety (90) days from the
24 effectivity of this Act, the Department of Agriculture, in coordination with other relevant
25 government agencies and stakeholders, shall formulate the necessary rules and regulations for its
26 effective implementation.

27 **SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional,
28 such declaration shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions hereof.

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

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

33 *Approved,*