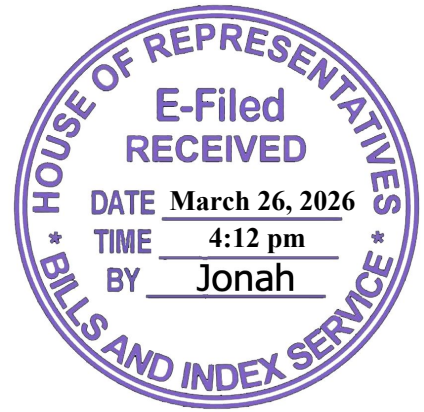


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8798



Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

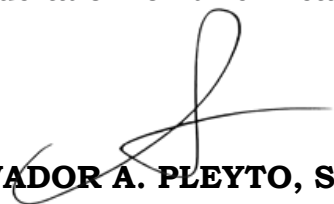
Agriculture remains the backbone of the Philippine economy, yet our farmers and fisherfolk consistently face challenges related to economies of scale, access to credit, and market linkages. While the cooperative model has proven effective in empowering marginalized sectors by consolidating resources, the specific needs of agricultural cooperatives require specialized, integrated support that aligns directly with the nation's food security programs.

Currently, the regulation and development of cooperatives fall under the general jurisdiction of the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA). However, agricultural cooperatives face unique operational and sectoral challenges—such as mechanization, crop insurance, supply chain logistics, and agrarian reform integration—that require the direct technical expertise and policy alignment of the Department of Agriculture (DA).

To optimize government structures and ensure a more focused, efficient delivery of services, there is a distinct need to reorganize how the government supports agricultural cooperatives. Consolidating these specific support mechanisms under a dedicated bureau within the DA will eliminate institutional fragmentation, streamline bureaucratic processes, and ensure that agricultural cooperatives receive comprehensive support tailored to the agricultural value chain.

This bill seeks to create the Bureau of Agriculture Cooperative (BAC) under the Department of Agriculture. The BAC will be tasked with the promotion, organization, capacity-building, and specialized support of agricultural cooperatives, ensuring they are highly competitive, resilient, and central to the modernization of Philippine agriculture.

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


SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8798

Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

**AN ACT CREATING THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURE COOPERATIVE
UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Bureau of
Agriculture Cooperative Act."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — It is the declared policy of the State to
foster the creation and growth of agricultural cooperatives as practical
vehicles for promoting self-reliance, enhancing agricultural productivity, and
increasing the income of farmers, fisherfolk, and agricultural workers.
Towards this end, the State shall establish a dedicated, streamlined
government structure to provide specialized technical, financial, and
institutional support to agricultural cooperatives.

SEC. 3. *Creation of the Bureau of Agriculture Cooperative.* — The Bureau
of Agriculture Cooperative, hereinafter referred to as the Bureau, is hereby
created and attached to the Department of Agriculture (DA).

SEC. 4. *Mandate and Functions.* — The Bureau shall be the primary
agency responsible for the formulation and implementation of policies, plans,
and programs for the development and empowerment of agricultural
cooperatives. It shall have the following functions:

1. Formulation of Policies: Draft and recommend policies to the DA
Secretary, integrating agricultural cooperatives into the national food
security and agricultural modernization agenda.
2. Organization and Promotion: Actively promote the organization of
farmers, fisherfolk, and rural workers into viable agricultural
cooperatives.

3. Capacity Building: Provide specialized training on modern agricultural technologies, agribusiness management, value-chain optimization, and financial literacy.
4. Financial and Technical Assistance: Facilitate access to credit, grants, farm machinery, and post-harvest facilities specifically earmarked for agricultural cooperatives.
5. Market Linkage: Establish direct market linkages between agricultural cooperatives and institutional buyers, eliminating unnecessary middlemen.
6. Coordination: Coordinate seamlessly with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) for the registration and regulatory compliance of agricultural cooperatives, ensuring that the Bureau focuses purely on developmental and technical agricultural support.

SEC. 5. *Organizational Structure.* — The Bureau shall be headed by a Director, who shall be assisted by an Assistant Director. Both shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines upon the recommendation of the Secretary of Agriculture.

The DA Secretary shall determine the organizational structure and staffing pattern of the Bureau, subject to the evaluation and approval of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and in accordance with civil service laws, rules, and regulations.

SEC. 6. *Transitory Provisions and Government Reorganization.* — To prevent duplication of functions and ensure the efficient reorganization of government resources, all existing divisions, units, and programs within the Department of Agriculture primarily dealing with the development of agricultural cooperatives shall be collapsed and their functions, records, equipment, and applicable unexpended appropriations transferred to the Bureau.

SEC. 7. *Appropriations.* — The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the Department of Agriculture. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued operation of the Bureau shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* — Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with the CDA, DBM, and relevant stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

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

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,