



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 9683

Introduced by Representative Howard A. Guintu

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Statements such as “I believe that those who have less in life should have more in law” and “I believe that the little man is fundamentally entitled to a little bit more food in his stomach, a little more cloth in his back, and a little more roof over his head” form part of the enduring credo and legacy of late former President Ramon Magsaysay. These guiding maxims are reflected in the constitutional principle of social justice, which embodies the State’s commitment to promote equity and uplift marginalized sectors in all phases of national development. The principle of social justice finds compelling application in the plight of our farmers and fisherfolk, whose indispensable contributions to the nation’s food security and agricultural development have sustained the country for generations.

Based on the Philippine Statistics Authority March 2026 Labor Force Survey¹, approximately 19.1% of the country’s labor force, or around 9.36 million individuals, are employed in the agricultural sector². These millions of Filipino farmers and fisherfolks stand at the very foundation of our nation’s food security and agricultural stability. Through their tireless labor, they ensure that food reaches every Filipino household and that the country’s agricultural sector remains productive and resilient.

Yet despite carrying the immense responsibility of feeding the nation, many of them continue to live in poverty and uncertainty, deprived of the financial security they rightfully deserve after a lifetime of service. Many struggle to put enough food on their own tables and continue to rank among the poorest sectors in terms of poverty incidence for years.³ For decades, they have endured persistent structural challenges and setbacks, including unstable market prices and climate-related disasters, to which they remain particularly vulnerable. Worse, after years of labor that sustain the nation, many are left without financial security in their old age, trapping their families in a cycle of poverty from which they can scarcely recover.

¹ PSA. (2026). *Philippine Labor and Employment Indicators as of March 2026: A Labor Force Survey*. Philippine Statistics Authority.

² This figure is derived from the combined employment estimates for Agriculture and Forestry (8.38 million) and Fishing and Aquaculture (981,000), for a total of 9.36 million workers.

³ Philippine Statistics Authority. (2023). *Fisherfolks and Farmers Remain to Have the Highest Poverty Incidences Among the Basic Sectors in 2021*. https://psa.gov.ph/system/files/phdsd/Press%20Release_5%20%281%29.pdf

Viewed from any perspective, our farmers and fisherfolk continue to bear the greatest risks while receiving the least protection. Social justice demands that the State rectify this imbalance and provide safeguards for those who have given so much to the country.

Hence, this bill seeks to address these longstanding unfair conditions by ensuring financial security for farmers and fisherfolk upon reaching retirement age through the establishment of a comprehensive pension and social security program. It aims to uplift them from their disadvantaged position by providing much-needed economic stability after years of labor and sacrifice, thereby helping free them from the cycle of poverty and vulnerability that has long burdened their sector. In doing so, the State recognizes not only their indispensable role in sustaining national food security but also their right to retire with dignity and adequate financial support.

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



HOWARD A. GUINTU
Representative, First District of Capiz



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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING AN AGRICULTURAL PENSION FUND FOR FARMERS AND
FISHERFOLK, PROVIDING FOR ITS ADMINISTRATION, 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 “Agricultural Pension Act.”

Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to give the highest priority to the development of agriculture by ensuring the protection and welfare of farmers and fisherfolk as indispensable contributors to national food security, agricultural development, and economic stability. The State recognizes its duty to provide adequate social protection mechanisms that uphold their dignity, improve their quality of life, and secure their financial well-being, particularly in old age, disability, or other circumstances that limit their capacity to work.

Towards this end, the State shall accord due recognition to their vital contribution by establishing a comprehensive pension and social security program that shall provide financial assistance and income security to qualified farmers and fisherfolk upon retirement.

Sec. 3. *Creation of the Farmers and Fisherfolk Social Security and Pension Program.* – There is hereby established the “Farmer and Fisherfolk Social Security and Pension Program,” herein referred to as the Program, which shall provide agricultural workers a substantial and reliable source of income security and secured retirement in their old age. The Program shall consist of the comprehensive set of objectives, targets, and holistic approach in the provision of sickness, maternity, disability, retirement, death, and funeral benefits to farmers and fisherfolk. It shall be integrated and made consistent with the package benefits under the Social Security System (SSS) and relevant programs of the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC).

Sec. 4. *Implementing Agency.* – The PCIC, an attached agency of the DA, and the SSS shall be the primary implementing agencies of the provisions of this Act. To fulfill the goals of this Act, they shall perform the following duties and functions:

- a. The SSS and PCIC shall tap the expertise of other relevant government offices in the formulation of the objectives, targets, and approaches under the Program;
- b. The PCIC shall manage the registration system of eligible agricultural workers under the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA) and maintain the required operational reports;
- c. The SSS shall manage the funds allocated and the social security and pension scheme of the Program and maintain the required actuarial and financial reports;
- d. The PCIC and the SSS shall perform other duties and functions necessary in the efficient and effective implementation of this Act. The PCIC and the SSS shall collaborate with and secure the technical assistance of the DA in all stages of implementation of this Act. The DA shall ensure that the objectives of the Program are met and shall evaluate and monitor the Program’s contribution to the productivity of the agricultural sector and the improvement of the quality of life of farmers and fisherfolk.

Sec. 5. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry out the initial implementation of this Act shall be drawn from the savings of the national government. Thereafter, the funds necessary for the continuous implementation of the program shall be sourced from ten percent (10%) of the total annual duties collected from the importation of agricultural products. The

supplemental amount necessary for its implementation shall be included in the annual appropriations of the DA.

Sec. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the PCIC shall, in consultation with the DA, SSS, the Department of Budget and Management, and the Department of Finance, formulate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

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, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or other issuances 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 in the Philippines.

Approved,