

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **10231**



Introduced by **Rep. MANUEL “WOWO” L. FORTES**

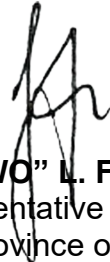
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Farmers and fisherfolk are the backbone of the Philippine economy. They ensure food security, sustain rural communities, and contribute to national stability. Yet, despite their vital role, they remain among the poorest and most vulnerable sectors, often excluded from formal pension systems and social protection.

This bill seeks to establish a dedicated Agricultural Pension and Social Security Program that will provide retirement and related benefits to qualified farmers and fisherfolk. By creating a structured, government-backed mechanism, the measure addresses the long-standing gap in social protection and guarantees dependable income security for those who have devoted their lives to feeding the nation.

Through this program, the State affirms its commitment to honor the dignity of agricultural labor, strengthen the agricultural sector, and secure the nation’s food supply.

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


ATTY. MANUEL “WOWO” L. FORTES, JR.
Representative
Second District, Province of Sorsogon

Twentieth Congress of the
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**AN ACT PROVIDING AGRICULTURAL PENSION AND SOCIAL SECURITY
BENEFITS TO FARMERS AND FISHERFOLKS**

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

SECTION. 1 *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Agriculture Pension and Social
Security Act”

SEC 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to:

- (a) Establish, develop, and promote sound and viable social security schemes tailored to the needs of agricultural workers, including small-scale farmers, tenant farmers, fisherfolk, and agricultural laborers;
- (b) Strengthen the agriculture sector through sustainable efforts to end hunger, achieve food security, and improve the general health and nutrition of Filipinos;
- (c) Protect and promote the welfare of farmers and fisherfolk by reducing socio-economic risks such as climate change, market volatility, and seasonal unemployment;
- (d) Institutionalize a comprehensive pension and social security program that ensures dependable income security and access to benefits across the life cycle. Expanded: This section now explicitly recognizes climate risks, market instability, and informal labor conditions as part of the vulnerabilities addressed.

SEC 3. *Creation of the Farmers and Fisherfolk Social Security and Pension Program.* – "The Farmers and Fisherfolk Social Security and Pension Program", herein referred to as the "Program," shall provide farmers and fisherfolk with a modest, dependable income security upon retirement. The Program shall consist of a comprehensive set of objectives, targets, and a holistic approach to providing sickness, maternity, disability, retirement, death, and funeral benefits to farmers and fisherfolk. The said pension scheme shall be made consistent with the package benefits under the existing Social Security program of the Social Security System (SS) and relevant programs of the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC)

SEC 4. *Implementing Agencies.* – The Social Security System (SSS) and the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC), with support from the Department of Agriculture (DA), shall implement the Program.

- (a) The PCIC shall manage the registration system of eligible agricultural workers under the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA) and provide necessary operational reports.
- (b) The SSS and PCIC shall tap the expertise of other relevant government offices to formulate the objectives, trends, and approaches under the Program.
- (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 for the efficient 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 the objectives of the Program are met and shall evaluate and monitor the Program's contribution to the productivity of the agricultural sector and improvement of the quality of life of farmers and fisherfolk.

SEC 5. *Program Review.* – The Program shall undergo a comprehensive review every five (5) years by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS), in coordination with the DA, SSS, and PCIC.

- (a) Annual reports shall be submitted to Congress and PIDS detailing membership, fund sustainability, and benefit distribution.
- (b) A feedback mechanism shall be established to allow farmers and fisherfolk to submit concerns, suggestions, and grievances.
- (c) All the following information, feedback, and reports shall be provided to the PIDS in a timely manner to be used on the five-year review.

SEC. 6. *Appropriation.* – 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. 7 *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from effectivity, the PCIC, in consultation with DA, SSS, DBM, DOF, and stakeholders, shall issue the IRR.

SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision is declared invalid, the rest shall remain in force.

SEC 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees or issuances, executive orders, letters of instruction, administrative orders, rules, or regulations contrary to, or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly

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

Approved,