



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10751



Introduced by 4Ps Partylist Representative
JC M. ABALOS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Sa bawat butil ng kanin na ating kinokonsumo, sa bawat isda o yamang dagat na ating nilalasap, may magsasakang tinitii ang matinding init ng araw at may mangingisdang hinaharap ang mapanganib na alon ng dagat...

Ngunit sa kabalintunaan, ang mga magsasaka at mangingisda ang mga sektor na nanatiling pinakaduha sa Pilipinas.

Filipino farmers and fisherfolk hold the primary role in ensuring national food security in the country. They are the most indispensable yet most vulnerable sectors of the Philippine economy. Through their hard work, they feed millions of Filipino families every day despite unstable incomes, high production costs, climate-related disasters, and limited social protection.

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) research showed that farmers and fisherfolk consistently have the highest poverty incidence among all basic sectors in the country. It further reported that in 2021, the poverty incidence among fisherfolk stood at 30.6%, higher than the national poverty incidence.¹ This means that nearly one (1) in every three (3) Filipino farmers and fisherfolk continues to live below the poverty threshold despite their vital contribution to the country's food supply.

Critical sources of livelihood and employment still come from the sectors of agriculture and fishing. Around 22.36% of total employment in the Philippines in 2023 was generated by agriculture-related work, proving the continued dependence of millions of Filipino families on this sector for survival.² The fisheries sector alone directly and indirectly supports the livelihoods of approximately 2.29 million Filipinos, including those engaged in capture

¹Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), *Fisherfolks and Farmers Remain to Have the Highest Poverty Incidences Among the Basic Sectors in 2021* (2023).

² World Bank/ILO Data, *Employment in Agriculture (% of Total Employment)*, Philippines (2023).

fisheries, aquaculture, processing, transport, and related industries.³ The latest records further reported that there are already more than 2.29 million registered fisherfolk in the country.⁴

Filipino farmers and fisherfolk remain economically insecure, especially the elderly ones, despite their indispensable role in the country. Most agricultural workers belong to the informal sector and often lack adequate retirement savings, pension security, insurance protection, and stable access to social security benefits. Many continue to work even in old age because retirement is simply unaffordable and not an option. Studies and government reports indicate that the average Filipino farmer is now in their mid-50s, an indication of an urgent demographic concern over the sustainability of food production and the declining interest of younger generations in agriculture.⁵

Without a comprehensive and dedicated pension mechanism for agricultural workers, not only perpetuates poverty but also discourages younger Filipinos from entering the agriculture and fisheries sectors. Without institutional support, farming and fishing become occupations associated with poverty.

This proposed measure seeks to address this longstanding inequity through the establishment of the Farmers and Fisherfolk Social Security and Pension Program, a comprehensive pension and social protection system designed to provide income security and retirement protection to farmers and fisherfolk through access to sickness, maternity, disability, retirement, death, and funeral benefits under the Social Security System (SSS), in coordination with the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC).

Recognizing that poverty among farming and fishing households is often intergenerational, this bill further introduces an educational scholarship component for children of registered farmers and fisherfolk. Through this bill, the State empowers the next generation to break cycles of poverty while still honoring and uplifting families whose labor sustains the nation.

Higit sa lahat, ang panukalang batas na ito ang nagpapamulat sa isang simpleng katotohanan: Na ang mga taong naghihirap at nagbabanat ng buto upang may makain ang ating bayan ay nararapat lamang na hindi magutom, maabuso at makalimutan. Napapanahon na upang magkaroon ng isang komprehensibo at matibay na social protection mechanism para sa ating mga magsasaka at mangingisda na malaki ang sakripisyo para sa ating bansa.

Similar bills were filed such as in the 18th Congress authored by Rep. Florencio Gabriel “Bem” Noel, in the previous Congress authored by Rep. Patrick Michael Vargas, and in the Congress, filed by Rep. Nathaniel Oducado

Given the considerations mentioned, this Representation respectfully seeks the passage of this proposed measure.



JC M. ABALOS
Representative
4Ps Partylist

³ Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), Fisheries Country Profile: Philippines (2025), citing BFAR 2024 data.

⁴ Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA), Registered Fisherfolk Data (2023).

⁵ Secreterio, Mary Louise. Perception of Filipino Youth towards Agriculture: Eradicating Agri Stereotypes through Education (March 2021).Research Gate



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10751

Introduced by 4Ps Partylist Representative
JC M. ABALOS

**AN ACT CREATING AN AGRICULTURAL PENSION PROGRAM TO PROVIDE
SOCIAL SECURITY AND PENSION BENEFITS TO FARMERS AND
FISHERFOLK**

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 “*Pensyonadong Magsasaka at*
2 *Mangingisda Act.*”

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

- 4 a. Revitalize the agriculture industry towards sustainability and create the necessary
5 conditions to end hunger, achieve food security, and improve the general health and
6 nutrition of Filipinos;
7 b. Recognize the important role and give proper value to the contributions of farmers
8 and fisherfolk in our daily survival, national development, and in ensuring long-
9 term food security;
10 c. Protect and promote the welfare of farmers and fisherfolk by putting in place
11 measures that would reduce their socio-economic risks and vulnerabilities, thereby
12 improving their quality of life; and
13 d. Establish and institutionalize a comprehensive pension and social security program
14 for the benefit of agricultural workers.

15 **SEC. 3. *The Farmers and Fisherfolk Social Security and Pension Program.*** - There is
16 hereby established the Farmers and Fisherfolk Social Security and Pension Program, herein
17 referred to as the Program, which shall provide agricultural workers a substantial and reliable
18 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 under the Social Security System (SSS) and relevant programs of the Department of Agriculture (DA), and the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC).

SEC. 3-A. *Scholarship Benefits for Dependents.* – In recognition of the invaluable role of farmers and fisherfolk in national development, and to uplift their families from intergenerational poverty, the Program shall likewise provide educational scholarships to the legitimate and legally adopted sons and daughters of registered farmer and fisherfolk beneficiaries.

The scholarship shall cover tuition, miscellaneous fees, and a reasonable allowance for books, supplies, and other academic needs. Qualified dependents shall be entitled to a scholarship grant from the time of admission until completion of a college degree or technical-vocational course in any state university, college, or public technical-vocational institution.

In cases where slots and resources permit, qualified dependents may also avail of assistance when enrolled in accredited private educational institutions, subject to guidelines prescribed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

SEC. 4. *Implementing Agencies.* – The PCIC, an attached agency of the DA, and the SSS shall be the primary implementing agencies of the provisions of this Act. To fulfil 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.
- e) The Department of Agriculture (DA), in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Technical Education Skills Development Authority (TESDA), shall administer and supervise the scholarship component of this Act. The DA shall ensure that the selection of scholarship-beneficiaries is merit-based, transparent, and inclusive, prioritizing dependents of indigent farmers and fisherfolk. The DA, CHED, and TESDA shall submit an annual report to Congress on the number of scholarship recipients, their fields of study, and their performance.

The DA shall ensure that the objectives of the Program are met and shall evaluate and monitor its contribution to the productivity of the agricultural sector and the improvement of the quality of life of farms, fisherfolk, and their families.

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

1 total annual duties collected from the importation of agricultural products. Of this amount, five
2 percent (5%) shall be earmarked exclusively for the scholarship component established under
3 Section 3-A of this Act. The supplemental amount necessary for its implementation shall be
4 included in the annual appropriations of the DA.

5 **SEC. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within ninety (90) days from the date of
6 effectivity of this Act, the PCIC shall, in consultation with the DA, SSS, the Department of Budget
7 and Management (DBM), and the Department of Finance (DOF), formulate the rules and
8 regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

9 **SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or
10 unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected by such declaration shall remain in full force and
11 effect.

12 **SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, executive and administrative orders, rules, and
13 regulations inconsistent with the foregoing provisions are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

14 **SEC. 9. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
15 Official gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

16 *Approved,*