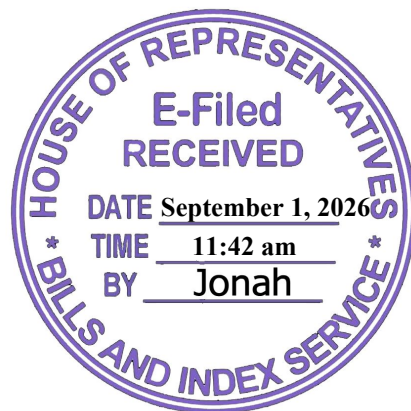




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 11033



Introduced by Deputy Speaker David "Jay-Jay" C. Suarez

**AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING AN AUTOMATED EMERGENCY EMPLOYMENT
FRAMEWORK FOR DISPLACED AGRICULTURAL WORKERS DURING SEVERE
CLIMATE DISRUPTIONS AND EXTREME WEATHER ANOMALIES, CREATING
THE "CLIMATE-TO-WORK" (C2W) PROGRAM, PROVIDING APPROPRIATIONS
AND FINANCIAL MECHANISMS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Philippine agriculture is on the frontlines of global climate change. Severe climate anomalies—ranging from extended El Niño dry spells and severe droughts to intense La Niña downpours and catastrophic flash flooding—no longer represent rare natural occurrences; they are recurring structural shocks to our rural economy.

The latest Labor Force Survey data released by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) show that climate change and severe weather disruptions are no longer just environmental threats. Rather, they are actively driving a national unemployment crisis.

In May 2026, the number of jobless Filipinos climbed by 23.2% year-on-year, reaching 2.5 million individuals. This surge was primarily triggered by a staggering contraction in the agriculture and forestry sectors, which alone shed 905,000 workers due to extreme weather disruptions brought about by El Niño. Job losses were heavily concentrated among vulnerable, climate-exposed crop industries, specifically paddy rice, corn, vegetables, spices, and aromatic crops.¹

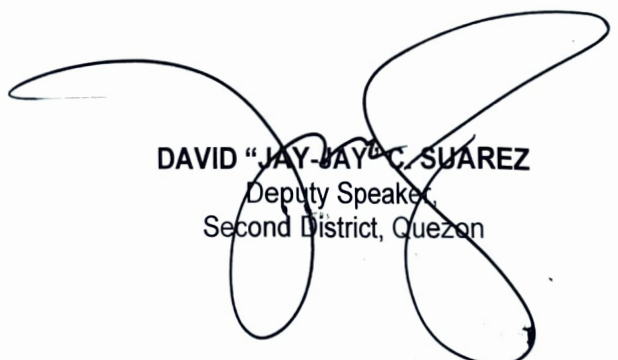
¹<https://mb.com.ph/2026/07/08/el-nino-farm-losses-push-jobless-filipinos-to-25-million-in-may> - El Niño farm losses push jobless Filipinos to 2.5 million in May

When extreme weather strikes, the immediate focus of government relief is typically restricted to crop damage compensation for farm owners or food pack distribution for general evacuees. Tragically overlooked are the most vulnerable actors in the rural economy, such as landless agricultural laborers, tenant farmers, and seasonal agricultural workers who rely entirely on daily farm wages. When crops fail or planting seasons are disrupted, their daily income drops to zero. This proposed measure seeks to institutionalize a proactive, structural solution by creating an automated emergency employment framework that turns climate-driven labor displacement into a regional infrastructure asset.

By setting definitive climate thresholds tied to PAGASA and PSA metrics, this bill mandates the automatic deployment of a "*Climate-to-Work*" (C2W) emergency employment program. Displaced farmers will be immediately contracted and paid standard regional wages to construct, repair, and manage critical local climate-adaptation infrastructure, including solar-powered irrigation networks, farm-to-market drainage canals, and small-scale water impounding systems.

By bridging labor protection, agricultural resilience, and fiscal discipline, this measure safeguards rural livelihoods, preserves national food security, and builds localized climate resilience.

In view of the urgent necessity to protect nearly one million Filipino agricultural workers from climate-driven joblessness, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



DAVID "JAY-JAY" C. SUAREZ
Deputy Speaker
Second District, Quezon



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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 "*Climate-Triggered Agricultural Emergency Employment Act.*"

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to promote full employment, protect the livelihoods of rural workers from environmental and climate-driven vulnerabilities, and safeguard national food security. The State recognizes that extreme hydrometeorological anomalies, –including severe droughts, prolonged dry spells, excessive rainfalls, La Niña phenomena, and catastrophic flooding–present severe threats to agricultural productivity and rural labor stability. To address these climate-induced labor contractions, the State shall transition from reactive, temporary cash doles to a proactive, automated, and climate-resilient economic intervention. The State shall guarantee immediate alternative income to

displaced smallholder farmers, farm tenants, and seasonal farmworkers through state-funded emergency public works designed to build, restore, and maintain localized climate-adaptation infrastructure.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this act:

- (a) *Agricultural Worker* refers to smallholder farmers, farm tenants, landless farmworkers, and seasonal laborers, directly engaged in crop production, forestry, or aquaculture, whose primary livelihood is dependent on daily or seasonal farm operations;
- (b) *Climate-Triggered Labor Displacement (CTLD)* refers to a rapid contraction of agricultural employment or total loss of daily income among agricultural workers within a province, city, or municipality resulting from severe droughts, prolonged dry spells, excessive rainfalls, severe flooding, or extreme weather anomalies as declared by Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Systems Administration (PAGASA);
- (c) *Climate-to-Work (C2W) Program* refers to the automatic emergency employment intervention established under this Act; and
- (d) *Climate-Adaptation Infrastructure* refers to small-scale, localized public works designed to enhance rural environmental resilience, including solar-powered communal irrigation networks, farm drainage canals, small water impounding projects (SWIPs), check dams, rainwater harvesting structures, agro-forestry soil erosion barriers, and localized flood-control dikes.

SECTION 4. *The Climate-to-Work (C2W) Emergency Program.* - There is hereby institutionalized a permanent Climate-to-Work (C2W) Program.

The Program shall be primary administered by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the Department of Agriculture (DA), in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and LGUs.

The C2W Program shall absorb displaced agricultural workers into temporary public works focused on building, restoring, and maintaining localized climate-adaptation infrastructure during severe climate disruption cycles, in accordance with Section 5 hereof.

SECTION 5. *Expedited Climate Activation Protocol.* - The implementation and funding of the C2W Program shall be automatically activated within any affected Province, City, or Municipality under any of the following conditions:

- (a) An official climate bulletin issued by PAGASA declaring an active El Niño, meteorological drought, severe dry spell, La Niña, or extreme rainfall anomaly affecting a specific agricultural zone for a continuous period exceeding thirty (30) days; or
- (b) A formal declaration of a state of calamity due to climate anomalies, flooding, or drought issued by the local Sanggunian of the affected LGU; and
- (c) Official sector data or rapid assessment reports from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) or the DA Regional Field Office (RFO) indicating a quarterly agricultural labor employment contraction or crop damage loss of at least ten percent (10%) within the affected jurisdiction, or

Upon satisfaction of the conditions in paragraphs (a) and (c) or paragraphs (b) and (c) hereof, the DOLE Regional Office, in coordination with the DA-RFO, shall within five (5) working days issue a Notice of C2W Activation to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) for the immediate release of pre-appropriated contingent funds.

SECTION 6. *Beneficiary Selection and Inclusionary Registry.* - To guarantee objective target identification, streamline intake, and maintain public accountability, beneficiary selection shall adhere to the following framework:

- 1) **Unified Registry.** Qualified beneficiaries shall be drawn from a verified database cross-referenced among the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA), *National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction* (NHTS-PR) of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and verified rosters maintained by City or Municipal Agriculture Offices (CAO/MAO) and Agrarian Reform Beneficiary (ARB) registries.
- 2) **Emergency Intake Desks.** Local C2W Intake Desks managed by the LGU Public Employment Service Office (PESO) and CAO/MAO shall register displaced farmworkers, landless laborers, and seasonal workers not currently listed in the RSBSA. The DA-RFO shall validate non-listed registrants within ten (10) working days from submission.
- 3) **Transparency and Public Notice.** The validated master list of C2W beneficiaries shall be published on conspicuous bulletin boards in the Barangay Hall and Municipal/City Hall, and posted on the official digital portals of DOLE and the participating LGU to ensure transparency and eliminate political patronage.

SECTION 7. *Duration and Compensation for Emergency Work.* – Enrolled beneficiaries performing unskilled and semi-skilled labor for localized climate-adaptation infrastructure projects shall be contracted for a minimum period of thirty

(30) days and a maximum period of ninety (90) days per climate disruption cycle, depending on the severity of labor displacement, and shall receive a daily wage equivalent to one hundred percent (100%) of the prevailing statutory regional minimum wage set by the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board (RTWPB) under the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), alongside basic personal protective equipment and social insurance coverage, the specific guidelines and mechanics of which shall be defined in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of this Act.

SECTION 8. *Direct Disbursement of Compensation.* - To ensure transparency, and eliminate intermediary leakages, all wage payments under the C2W Program shall be remitted directly to individual beneficiaries through Government Financial Institutions (GFIs), Landbank cards, or accredited digital payment and e-wallet platforms.

SECTION 9. *Appropriations.* The amount necessary for the immediate implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current-year available appropriations under the DOLE-TUPAD Program. Thereafter, a dedicated, contingent line-item budget to be known as the "Climate-to-Work (C2W) Contingent Fund" shall be included as a distinct annual appropriation under the General Appropriations Act (GAA) within the budget of DOLE.

SECTION 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the Department of Agriculture (DA), in joint consultation with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), National Irrigation Administration (NIA), and accredited or recognized Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

SECTION 11. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue in full force and effect.

SECTION 12. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, administrative orders, rules, and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 13. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,