

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
 OF THE PHILIPPINES)
 First Regular Session)

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SENATE

S. No. 248

Introduced by Senator S. R. Osmeña III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The theory of *inter-linked transactions* between the landlord and the tenant demonstrates the many things that the landlord was to the farmer - owner of the land he tilled, creditor, source of non-labor inputs, buyer of his outputs, and employer of extra non-farm labor. In a sense the landlord provided the tenant with his only link to markets. The bundling together of all these transactions also remedied the problem of credit risk and transactions costs. In the absence of anything better, the landlord-tenant relationship was an improvement over subsistence production with no opportunity for exchange.

Agrarian reform addressed the distributive inequities of the tenancy system. However, with the exit of landlords from rural markets, the farmer finds himself without access to credit, to market opportunities and to many other things. Government intervention in rural markets has to address the urgent need to institutionalize ways of packaging factor inputs in agriculture to bring about *innovative, efficient and competitive modes of production and marketing*. Otherwise, support services like extension, information, and infrastructure will not be sufficient to overcome the perceived production risks that deter the farmer from venturing into higher value crops.

This bill rationalizes and restructures the existing government organizations in order to establish harmony and coordination between policy-making and implementation, and market-development programs geared towards supporting the farmer as he transforms himself into an entrepreneur.

The National Agricultural Marketing Council will serve as the policy-making body for agricultural trading, with the Regional Agricultural Marketing Councils as its branch offices. The following attached agencies are also created to serve proprietary roles in market development and intervention:

- (a) The National Agricultural Trading Corporation (NATCOR), to function as the market development and intervention arm of the council;

- (b) The Public Warehousing Corporation, to operate Commodity Exchange Centers (CECs); establish terminal markets all over the country, and maintain the country's buffer stocks of food grain and other food commodities;
- (c) The Agricultural Credit and Guarantee Corporation of the Philippines (AGCREDOR) to provide credit assistance and guarantee cover on project loans and inventory financing for commodities deposited in the warehouses of the Public Warehousing Corporation's warehouses.

The above agencies will absorb the functions and resources of the Agribusiness Group, the National Agribusiness Corporation, the Agricultural Credit Policy Council, the Quedan and Rural Credit and Guarantee Corporation of the Philippines and the National Food Authority.

Under the proposed set-up, the specialized functions are clearly identified, delineated and distributed among the appropriate agencies so as to avoid conflict of interest situations that have so often hamstrung past policy making and implementation. Moreover, the separation of policy-making and enforcement from proprietary functions paves the way for the eventual transfer of the latter functions to the private sector, with competitive markets geared for efficiency.

It has been said that the poverty in many underdeveloped economies stems from the massive waste of resources that result from the inadequacies of market mechanisms. In the Philippine countryside, the government must confront the challenge to develop the market institutions that will put a stop to the massive waste of resources, bring productive inputs together, pave the way for more innovative modes of production and deliver our products to national, regional and international markets.

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


SERGIO OSMEÑA III
Senator

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
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S. No. 248

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AN ACT
TO PROMOTE THE AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY, STABILIZE PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND ENHANCE FOOD SECURITY THROUGH THE EFFECTIVE PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, MARKETING AND DISTRIBUTION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, RATIONALIZING AND RESTRUCTURING FOR THE PURPOSE, ALL EXISTING GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION MARKETING AND OTHER SUPPORT PROGRAMS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 Section . 1. **Title** - This Act shall be known as the “**National**
2 **Agricultural Marketing Act of 2004.**”

3 Section. 2. **Declaration of Policy** - It is hereby declared to be the
4 policy of the State to ensure the general welfare of farmers, who constitute
5 a majority of the national population, and are key to the production of
6 sufficient food supplies all over the country. It shall also be the policy of the
7 state to ensure the attainment of food security at all times as an essential
8 element of national security and a critical element of national development. For
9 purposes of this Act, food security shall be defined as the availability and
10 stability of food supply in a manner accessible to every Filipino of any
11 economic and social standing, given any change in the country’s climatic,
12 social, political and economic condition. The State recognizes that the goal of

1 food security is best served through the operation of competitive markets that
2 will provide sufficient incentives to farmers and producers to increase the
3 productivity levels of their farms.

4 For the above purposes, the state hereby rationalizes and restructures
5 existing government structures and programs on the production, processing,
6 marketing and distribution of agricultural products.

7 Section. 3. ***Creation of the National Agricultural Marketing Council -***

8 There is hereby created a policy-making and implementing body corporate
9 called the National Agricultural Marketing Council, which shall have the general
10 powers and attributes of a corporation as set forth in the Corporation Law and
11 the particular mandate to perform the following functions, powers and
12 responsibilities:

13 (a) To formulate policies, plans and programs on food production, post-
14 harvest handling, storage, milling, distribution and credit support,
15 including the coordination of its implementation among the various
16 agencies and institutions of the government and the private sector;

17 (b) To ensure the best administration of market development programs
18 for agricultural commodities and food products;

19 (c) To ensure an adequate flow of these products to consumers as well as
20 a fair return to producers and prevent inefficient and wasteful methods
21 of distribution;

22 (b) To foster the empowerment of agricultural producers into effective
23 associations or corporations under their own control for greater unity of
24 effort in marketing

25 (c) To promote the establishment and financing of a farm marketing
26 systems of producer- owned and producer-controlled cooperative
27 associations and other agencies,

- 1 (d) To set and review annually the government's buffer grain stock
2 requirements at the national and local levels and to ensure that these
3 requirements are achieved
- 4 (e) To effect, with the Regional Agricultural Marketing Councils and/or other
5 government entities as implementing agents, the domestic procurement
6 of the government's buffer grain stock through purchases of warehouse
7 receipts or *quedans* of grain deposits in government, farmer-
8 cooperatives and private warehouses and/or by buying grain produce
9 directly from farmer cooperatives.
- 10 (f) To cause the direct importation of rice and allocation of import quotas
11 among private entities, especially certified and licensed farmer
12 cooperatives
- 13 (g) To promulgate the government's "stabilization price" for grains to assure
14 farmers with a reasonable mark-up on their production cost and
15 participation in the profits that may be realized from the sale of the
16 government's *buffer grain stock*;
- 17 (h) To reorient the country's food production policies, plans and programs in
18 such a way that the thrust of increasing the productivity of farmers is not
19 only in terms of yield per unit area but more so in the aggregate income
20 from farming enterprises;
- 21 (i) To promote and coordinate plans and programs of assistance to
22 producers through input supplies, purchases, payments and other
23 operations, including low or no interest loans in partnership with
24 available financial sources or institutions;
- 25 (j) To institutionalize and actively promote the adoption of sustainable
26 agricultural practices at all farm levels so that steady production of
27 various food commodities to cope with the demands of a growing

1 population is achieved in a way that maintains the productivity of the soil
2 and diminishes any adverse impact to the immediate environment; and
3 (k) To undertake other tasks and activities as may be necessary to ensure
4 the attainment of efficient agricultural marketing systems and food
5 security.

6 Section. 4. **Governing Council.** - The powers, functions and affairs of
7 the Council shall be exercised and directed by a governing council to be chaired
8 by the Executive Secretary, with the Secretary of Agriculture as Vice Chair and
9 with the following as members:

- 10 (a) The Secretary of the Department of Agrarian Reform;
11 (b) The Secretary of the Department of Finance;
12 (c) The Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry;
13 (d) The Secretary of the Department of Public Works and Highways;
14 (e) The Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local
15 Government;
16 (f) The Secretary of the Department of Budget Management;
17 (g) The Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development;
18 (h) The Secretary of the Department of Transportation and
19 Communications; and
20 (i) The Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural
21 Resources.

22 The governing council shall meet regularly at least every month on any
23 date to be determined by the Chair; *Provided, That the Chair may convene*
24 *special meetings to discuss urgent matters needing immediate resolution. The*
25 *council members shall be entitled to per diem for every meeting actually*
26 *attended by them and other remunerations as may be determined by them. It*

1 shall prescribe the rules and regulations to govern its deliberations and other
2 official actions.

3 Section. 5. **Organization and Staff.** - The management of the day-to-day
4 operations of the Council shall be vested in an executive director who shall be
5 appointed with the rank of an undersecretary by the President of the
6 Philippines.

7 The Council shall set up the organizational structure, staffing pattern,
8 qualification standard, compensation scale, functions and authorities of their
9 officers and employees pursuant to pertinent laws, rules and regulations being
10 implemented by the Civil Service Commission and the Department of Budget
11 and Management.

12 Section. 6. **Regional Agricultural Marketing Councils** . - To operate
13 and serve as the branch offices of the National Agricultural Marketing Council at
14 the regional level, there are hereby instituted Regional Agricultural Marketing
15 Councils in all administrative regions of the country.

16 The regional Agricultural Marketing Councils shall be under the
17 administrative supervision and control of the National Agricultural Marketing
18 Council and shall implement in the region the policies, plans and programs of
19 the latter.

20 Section. 7. **Composition of the Regional Agricultural Marketing**
21 **Council.** - The Regional Agricultural Marketing Council shall be composed of

22 (a) All the provincial governors of the region;

23 (b) The regional directors of the Department of Agriculture

24 (c) A representative from the farming/fisheries sector;

25 (d) A representative from the agricultural marketing and trading sector;

26 and

27 (e) A representative from the consumer sector

1 All provincial governors with the Department of Agriculture Regional
2 Director shall by majority vote choose the sectoral representatives from among
3 nominees respectively submitted by recognized sectoral associations in the
4 region. Thereafter, the council members shall elect their Chair, Vice Chair
5 and other officers.

6 Section. 8. **Support Staff.** - The Regional Agricultural Marketing Council
7 shall appoint, from among its members or qualified outsider, a regional director
8 who shall manage and direct the day-to-day operations of the regional council.

9 The concomitant organizational structure and plantilla of personnel shall
10 be set up by the regional council subject to the approval of the national council.

11 Section. 9. **Creation of the NATCOR** - There is hereby created a body
12 corporate to be known as the National Agricultural Trading Corporation
13 (NATCOR) an attached agency to the Council hereinafter referred to as the
14 NATCOR which shall evolve the most efficient, dependable economical and
15 equitable marketing systems for agricultural products.

16 Section. 10. **General Powers and Functions of the NATCOR.** The
17 NATCOR shall have the following powers and functions:

18 (a) To formulate a medium term agricultural market development plan
19 which shall be updated every year

20 (b) To provide farmers, fisher folks and other persons reliable and up-
21 to-date market information by the establishment of an integrated and
22 efficient nationwide information access system that will guide
23 producers and other stakeholders to make decisions on what and
24 how much to plant and where and when to market

25 (c) To gather, analyze and disseminate market information on various
26 foreign countries' food supply, domestic and export demand, local
27 and export prices and other relevant data;

- 1 (d) To identify markets for Philippine agricultural products and assist in
2 the planning of market centers, marketing channels and distribution
3 networks to reduce marketing costs for producers and ultimately the
4 cost to consumers;
- 5 (e) To foster and assist in the development of new or expansion of
6 existing domestic and foreign markets through institutional
7 arrangements like contract growing, market matching, market
8 intelligence and other promotional activities for agricultural products;
- 9 (f) To provide farmers, fisher folks and other persons or firms access to
10 existing public and private researches supporting food market
11 development activities
- 12 (g) To disseminate information on inspection, classification,
13 standardization, and grading system for all agricultural products to
14 enhance global competitiveness;
- 15 (h) To formulate as part of its market development thrust more efficient
16 ways, systems, and facilities for harvesting, threshing or shelling,
17 drying, storage, milling, packaging, post-harvest handling,
18 transportation and/or shipping of agricultural products for purposes of
19 reducing costs and ensuring stable consumer supply;
- 20 (i) To require as a tool for market information the annual registration
21 and publish a directory of all persons, natural or juridical, engaged
22 or intending to engage in wholesaling, milling, processing,
23 warehousing and transporting of agricultural products, including by-
24 products thereof;
- 25 (j) To coordinate with the Department of Transportation and
26 Communications towards establishing more efficient, regular,
27 adequate, suitable and economical systems of transporting and/or

1 shipping of food products for purposes of *reducing marketing costs*
2 and ensuring availability of basic transport which is central to the
3 whole chain of agricultural production and distribution; and

4 (k) To promulgate policies, plans, programs, rules and regulations,
5 sanctions and penalties as may be necessary for the effective
6 exercise of the powers and functions of the NATCOR.

7 Section. 11. ***Strengthening of the Agricultural Marketing***
8 ***Information System.*** - For the effective implementation of the policy
9 enunciated in this Act, the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics shall be strengthened
10 as the principal line agency of the Republic of the Philippines for agricultural
11 statistics and marketing information. It shall serve the data requirements of the
12 NATCOR.

13 Section 12. ***Cooperation with other Government Agencies and***
14 ***Private Business Organization*** - All units and agencies of the government
15 shall support and cooperate with the National Agricultural Trading Corporation in
16 the implementation of its functions and programs. Likewise, private research
17 organizations, purchasing and consuming organizations, boards of trade,
18 chambers of commerce, other associations of business or trade organizations,
19 transportation and storage agencies and organizations, or other persons or
20 corporations engaged in the production, transportation storing, processing
21 marketing and distribution of agricultural products shall support the National
22 Agricultural Trading Corporation in the implementation of its functions.

23 **SECTION 13. *Creation of the Public Warehousing Corporation*** -

24 There is hereby created a government-owned corporation to be known as
25 the Public Warehousing Corporation, hereinafter called the Corporation,
26 which shall be attached to the Council and have the following functions,
27 powers and responsibilities:

- 1 (a) To establish and maintain warehouses and post-harvest facilities for
2 foods, grain and other agricultural products in all areas of production in
3 the country;
- 4 (b) To provide warehousing/storage services and post-harvest facility
5 assistance for the farmers' grain and food agricultural
6 stocks/inventories;
- 7 (c) To issue, pursuant to existing laws and regulations, corresponding
8 warehouse receipts or *quedan* for the farmers' grain and food
9 inventory deposits;
- 10 (d) To store and safe-keep the government's food or grain buffer/security
11 stocks as directed by the Council
- 12 (e) To lease out, sell, build, and transfer warehouses and/or post-harvest
13 facilities to farmer-cooperatives and federations, subject to the
14 approval of the Council;
- 15 (f) To establish and operate Commodity Exchange Centers (CEC); and
- 16 (g) To exercise the general powers and attributes of a corporation as
17 set forth in the Corporation Law.

18 SECTION 14. **Authorized Capital Stock of the Corporation** - The
19 authorized capital stock of the Corporation shall be Five billion Pesos
20 (P5,000,000,000) divided into five million (5,000,000) common shares of
21 stock which shall be subscribed and paid for by the national government
22 and government institutions.

23 SECTION 15. **Governing Board** - The powers, functions and affairs
24 of the Corporation shall be exercised and directed by a governing board
25 composed of the following:

- 26 (a) Executive Director of the Council as Chair;
- 27 (b) General Manager of the Corporation as Vice-Chair;

- 1 (c) President of AGCRECOR as member;
- 2 (d) Director of NATCOR as member; and
- 3 (e) Director of the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics as member.

4 The Board shall meet regularly at least every month and convene
5 special meetings to discuss urgent matters. The Board members shall
6 receive *per diem* for each meeting actually officiated and other remuneration
7 as may be determined by the Board. It shall prescribe the rules and
8 regulations to govern its deliberations and other official actions.

9 SECTION 16. **Organization and Staff.** - The management of the
10 day-to-day operations of the Corporation shall be vested in a general
11 manager who shall be appointed by the Council.

12 The governing board shall set up the organizational structure, staffing
13 pattern, qualification standard, compensation scale, functions and
14 authorities of their officers and employees pursuant to pertinent laws, rules
15 and regulations being implemented by the Civil Service Commission and the
16 Department of Budget and Management.

17 SECTION 17. **Commodity Exchange Centers (CEC)** - The
18 Corporation shall establish at all terminal markets in the country, especially
19 in Metro Manila and cities in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, Commodity
20 Exchange Centers which shall serve as central trading facilities for grains
21 in the regions to provide ready market for farmers' produce and promote
22 efficiency of grain distribution to consumers under a transparent marketing
23 system which enhances the interest of farmers and consumers alike.
24 Strategically located warehouses of the National Food Authority (NFA) shall
25 be the sites and business Officers of the Commodity Exchange Centers.
26 NFA personnel, because of their expertise in warehousing and grain

1 classification and grading, shall serve as the core staff for the operation of
2 the CECs.

3 Initially, daily public bidding of grains shall be on the basis of "on the
4 spot" commodity. Bidding shall later be on the basis of *quedans* or
5 warehouse receipts for grain inventories deposited in the warehouses of
6 the Corporation, the CECs or private bonded warehouses. Trading on
7 agricultural commodity "futures" shall be the final phase that the CECs shall
8 work for to achieve. Similarly, the CECs shall initially cover grains only
9 and later include other food and agricultural commodities.

10 SECTION 18 - ***Responsibility for Credit Assistance and***
11 ***Guarantee Cover*** - The provision of credit assistance and guarantee cover
12 on project loans and inventory financing for commodities owned and
13 deposited by farmers, consumers, and traders in the warehouses of the
14 Public Warehouse Corporations and franchised private bonded warehouses
15 shall be the primordial responsibility of the Quedan and Rural Credit
16 Guarantee Corporation, which is hereby attached to the Council and
17 renamed as the Agricultural Credit and Guarantee Corporation of the
18 Philippines, hereinafter referred to as AGCRECOR.

19 SECTION 19. ***Operating Guidelines*** - The AGCRECOR shall
20 adhere to the following operating guidelines:

21 (a) Provide production loans to farmers/fishers through their primary
22 cooperatives or federations by direct lending, co-financing schemes,
23 providing lending banks with especial time deposit, rediscounting
24 lending banks' production loan receivables and similar mechanisms so
25 as to reach out to as many rural clients as possible;

26 (b) Encourage lending institutions to extend project loans for production,
27 warehouses, post-harvest machineries and equipment, land

1 transportation and shipping, bulk and the like by providing a guarantee
2 cover on such loans;

3 (c) Provide guarantee cover on inventory loans for grain or food
4 commodities owned and deposited by farmers, consumers and traders
5 in the PWC warehouses, Commodity Exchange Centers and
6 franchised private bonded warehouses;

7 (d) Extend loans directly for the aforementioned projects and food
8 inventory when and where no lending banks are available or willing
9 to provide the loans;

10 (e) Endeavor to provide soft-term loans by sourcing and coordinating
11 grants, no-interest and low interest funds and blending them with
12 commercially sourced funds;

13 (f) Submit for the Council's approval and funding, a credit plan and
14 budget for the undertakings envisioned in paragraphs (a) and (d)
15 above, detailing therein the per region loan volume targets, expected
16 beneficiaries, repayments, arrearages and defaults on previous loans.
17 Likewise, a separate plan shall be submitted in regard to the
18 guarantee operation;

19 (g) Remit back to the Council all repayments for current loans and
20 recoveries on past due loans funded by the said Council.

21 SECTION 20. **Increase in Fund Base** - To achieve the vital credit
22 assistance and guarantee cover envisioned in this Act, the authorized
23 capital stock of AGCRECOR is hereby increased to Five billion pesos
24 (P5,000,000,000) divided into common shares of stock of the same par
25 value and with the same government-private sector ownership structure
26 spelled out under Republic Act No. 7393. At the start of the year and
27 upon the endorsement of the Council, the Department of Budget and

1 Management and the Department of Finance shall program and execute
2 the national government's and government institutions' (LBP, DBP, SSS,
3 GSIS, PAGCOR, PCSO, etc.) subscriptions and payment thereof for the
4 government portion of the authorized capital stock of AGCRECOR until
5 such government portion is fully completed within five (5) years.

6 Furthermore, to enhance credit assistance to farmers/fishers,
7 cooperatives/federations and other food enterprises envisioned in this Act,
8 the national government through the Secretary of Finance shall guarantee
9 the AGCRECOR's borrowings, duly approved and endorsed by the Council,
10 from government or private, domestic or foreign, financial institutions.

11 SECTION 21. **Incentives for Banks' Credit Support** - The
12 guarantee obligation of AGCRECOR shall be "sovereign" in nature and
13 deemed as the obligation of the national government in order to entice
14 much greater credit support from the banking sector since such
15 guaranteed loan receivables shall be considered as compliance with the
16 Agri-Agra Law, have access to the rediscounting window of *Bangko Sentral*
17 *ng Pilipinas* and exempted from the "single-borrower limit" and "risk asset
18 ratio requirements".

19 SECTION 22. **Compliance with Agri-Agra Law** - All banking
20 institutions are hereby mandated to allocate at least fifteen percent (15%)
21 of their loanable funds to the agricultural sector. Furthermore, the provisions
22 of the Agri-Agra Law, Presidential Decree No. 717, as amended on
23 substantial compliance through the purchase of government securities, are
24 hereby repealed. Bank loans extended for grain inventories deposited in
25 the warehouses of the Corporation, Commodities Exchange Centers and
26 franchised private bonded warehouse operators shall be deemed as
27 compliance with the Agri-Agra Law.

1 SECTION 23. *Devolution of the Agribusiness Group, the*
2 *National Agribusiness Corporation and the Agricultural Credit Policy*
3 *Council* - The Agribusiness Group of the Department of Agriculture, the
4 National Agribusiness Corporation and the Agricultural Credit Policy Council
5 are hereby devolved as follows:

6 (a) The records of the Agribusiness Group shall be transferred to the
7 NATCOR;

8 (b) The records, researches and reference materials of the Agricultural
9 Credit Policy Council shall likewise be turned over to the NATCOR;

10 (c) All other properties, assets and unexpended appropriations or corporate
11 operating budget of the National Agribusiness Corporation and the
12 Agricultural Credit Policy Council shall be transferred to the Council;

13 (d) The Comprehensive Agricultural Loan Fund created under Executive
14 Order No. 113, dated 24 December 1986 is hereby transferred to
15 the Council; and

16 (e) Officials and employees of the said group and agencies shall be
17 devolved into the NATCOR on the basis of merit and qualification.

18 SECTION 24. *Devolution of the Personnel, Properties, Assets,*
19 *Records, and Unexpended Appropriation of the National Food*
20 *Authority (NFA)* - The present warehouses, post-harvest facilities and
21 equipment, trucks, and utility vehicles of the National Food Authority shall
22 be transferred as the initial government equity to the Public Warehousing
23 Corporation. All personnel attendant to the said grain facilities shall likewise
24 be transferred to the Corporation.

25 All other personnel, properties, assets, records and unexpended
26 appropriations of the National Food Authority are transferred to the
27 National Agricultural Marketing Council and National Agricultural Trading

1 Corporation in a manner that the said Council shall decide. This shall
2 include imported rice and corn already in the country and other such stocks
3 that may arrive pursuant to the current importation thereof. Said stocks
4 shall be disposed of in accordance with the new policy of the Council.

5 SECTION 25. **Outstanding Obligations of the NFA** - All obligations
6 of the National Food Authority upon the approval of this Act shall be
7 transferred to and absorbed by the national government: *Provided*, That
8 those incurred in the current importation shall be paid by the Council up to
9 the extent of the rice/corn inventory still on hand and transferred to the
10 Council.

11 SECTION 26. **Options of Devolved Personnel** - All personnel
12 herein devolved and those otherwise not absorbed may opt to retire, if
13 qualified for retirement, or be laid off and gratuity shall be given as
14 follows:

15 (a) Not more than 20 years of service, 1.5 months gross pay per year of
16 service; and

17 (b) More than 20 years of service, 2 months gross pay per year of
18 service.

19 Those with pending administrative and/or criminal cases shall be paid
20 only after exoneration, otherwise they shall forfeit whatever benefits are due
21 to them.

22 SECTION 27. **Appropriations for the National Agricultural**
23 **Marketing Council** - The sum needed for the operation and maintenance
24 of the Council, including the credit funds to support food production and
25 other undertakings, shall form part of the appropriations, in the annual
26 General Appropriations Act.

1 SECTION 28. **Appropriation for the National Agricultural Trading**
2 **Corporation.** - For the initial operation of the NATCOR, the amount of Two
3 Hundred million pesos (P200,000,000) is hereby appropriated from the
4 current appropriations of the Department of Agriculture or the National
5 Food Authority. Thereafter, such sum as may be needed for its operations
6 and maintenance, including the amount needed for strengthening the
7 Bureau of Agricultural Statistics, shall be included as part of the
8 appropriations in the annual General Appropriations Act.

9 SECTION 29. **Appropriations for the Public Warehousing**
10 **Corporation** - For its initial operation, the amount of Five Hundred Million
11 Pesos (P500,000,000) is hereby appropriated for the Corporation from the
12 current appropriations of the Department of Agriculture or the National
13 Food Authority. Thereafter, such amount needed for their continuous
14 operation and maintenance shall be included as part of the appropriations
15 in the annual General Appropriations Act.

16 SECTION 30. **Appropriations for the Regional Agricultural**
17 **Marketing Council** - The National Agricultural Marketing Council shall out
18 of its financial resources appropriate such amount as would be necessary
19 for the start-up and continuous operation of each Regional Agricultural
20 Marketing Councils.

21 SECTION 31. **Repealing Clause** - All laws, decrees, executive
22 issuances, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby
23 repealed or modified accordingly.

24 SECTION 32. **Separability Clause** - The provisions of this Act are
25 hereby declared to be separable, and in the event one or more of such
26 provisions are held unconstitutional, the validity of the other provisions shall
27 not be affected thereby.

1 SECTION 33. **Effectivity Clause.** - This Act shall take effect immediately
2 after its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general
3 circulation.

Approved,