

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

'04 JUN 30 P3:11

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S E N A T E

S. No. 253

Introduced by Senator S. R. Osmeña III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Agricultural institutions have a big role to play in development efforts of the government for countryside agro-industrialization. Experience in developed countries has shown that colleges and universities involved in agriculture were instrumental in improving the productivity of the farming and rural communities. Through teaching, research and extension, these institutions provided the relevant high-level manpower, technology and services necessary to improve farm yields and incomes of agricultural workers.

This bill aims to establish a National Agriculture Education System (NAES), which is an approach to stratify institutional goals, upgrade standards and increase the school's effectiveness in instruction, research and extension within the nation, region or province. Through the NAES, the State commits to the exposure of all aspects of agriculture to teachers, students and the community to create and maintain an understanding and appreciation of agriculture and related industries. It is a great opportunity to promote agriculture awareness and an understanding of the importance of agriculture to all members of society.

Soil is one of our most precious resources. Therefore, we have to work on changing farm policy to emphasize the its proper use. We must get farmers into classrooms. We must strive to move student out of the classroom and onto farms which model sustainable systems. Together, we can work toward the goal of sustainable agricultural systems.

The bill attempts to improve the quality, efficiency and effectiveness of agriculture education programs while preserving the concern for equity or democratized access to higher education in the rural areas. It is also a response to the call for greater productivity, higher rural incomes and better quality of the Filipino people.

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

S. Osmeña III
SERGIO OSMEÑA III
Senator

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AN ACT
RATIONALIZING AGRICULTURE EDUCATION IN THE PHILIPPINES BY
ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL SYSTEM OF AGRICULTURE EDUCATION
INSTITUTIONS, PROVIDING FOR MECHANISMS OF IMPLEMENTATION,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

CHAPTER I. TITLE AND POLICIES

SECTION 1. **Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “**Agriculture
Education Act of 2004**”.

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policies. –

- a) The State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens, regardless of sex, and creed to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.
- b) The State shall establish, maintain, and support a complete an integrated system of agriculture education relevant to the needs of the economy, community and society.
- c) The State shall provide non-formal education and training to farmers, farmworkers and out-of-school youths in the rural areas.
- d) Agriculture education shall be coordinated with agricultural policies of the State and shall be oriented particularly towards improvement

1 of the productivity and incomes of small farmers and increased self-
2 sufficiency of rural communities.

3 CHAPTER II. COVERAGE

4 SEC. 3. **Scope.** - This Act shall apply to and govern both formal and
5 non-formal continuing agriculture education programs being offered in all public
6 and private educational institutions in the country.

7 SEC. 4. **Definition of Terms.** - The following terms shall mean as
8 defined herein:

9 a) Agriculture - means cultivation of the soil, planting of crops,
10 growing of fruit trees, management of forests, raising or catching of
11 livestock or both, poultry or fish; including the harvesting and post-
12 harvest handling of such products and other activities and practices
13 performed by a farmer/fisherman/forester in conjunction with such
14 operations done by persons whether natural or juridical.

15 b) Agriculture and Environmental Education - pertains to organized
16 and institutionalised instructions relating to professional, technical
17 and vocational skills development, research for technology
18 development, and extension of technologies in the various
19 fields/disciplines in agriculture and allied sciences such as crop
20 science, animal science, agricultural engineering, fisheries, forestry
21 and veterinary medicine. Environmental concerns are integrated in
22 each discipline.

23 CHAPTER III. THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURE EDUCATION SYSTEM

24 (NAES)

25 SEC. 5. **Purpose.** - Qualified existing public and private institutes,
26 colleges and universities shall be developed into a network of an integrated
27 system of Agriculture Education to respond effectively to agriculture and rural
28 development needs of the country.

1 **SEC. 6. The National Agriculture Education System (NAES)** – The
2 network of qualified public and private education institutions shall be formed and
3 established into a National Agriculture Education System (NAES), in order for
4 agriculture education to have a unified, coordinated and improved system of
5 implementation of academic program thrusts geared toward achieving agriculture
6 and rural development of the community and country. However, in case there is
7 no institution offering agriculture and rural development of the community and
8 country. However, in case there is no institution offering agriculture education in
9 the service area which corresponds to the provision of Section 7 of this Act, the
10 same shall be created or established according to implementing rules and
11 regulations of this Act.

12 **SEC. 7. Components of the System.** – From among the qualified
13 agriculture education institutions, regardless of the institution's system of
14 governance as authorized by law, the network shall be composed of five (5)
15 subsystems, namely: agriculture, agricultural engineering, fisheries, forestry and
16 veterinary medicine. However, administrative organization and structures of the
17 designated institutions shall be governed by their respective charters unless
18 otherwise provided in this Act.

19 a) The Agriculture Education Subsystem shall be composed of one (1)
20 designated National College of Agriculture, one (1) designated
21 Regional College of Agriculture in each region, and at least one (1)
22 designated/converted/created Technical Institute of Agriculture per
23 province as the case may be.

24 b) The Agricultural Engineering Education Subsystem shall be
25 composed of one (1) designated national College of Agricultural
26 Engineering and a designated Regional College of Agricultural
27 Engineering per region to be located within the network of the
28 agriculture education subsystem.

1 c) The Fisheries Education Subsystem shall be composed of one (1)
2 designated Regional College of Fisheries to be located strategically
3 in three (3) selected regions and a designated/converted/created
4 Regional Institute of Fisheries Technology per region.

5 d) The Forestry Education Subsystem shall be composed of one (1)
6 designated National College of Forestry and a designated Regional
7 College of Forestry per region to be located within the agriculture
8 education subsystem, if possible.

9 e) The Veterinary Education Subsystem shall be composed of one (1)
10 designated national College of Veterinary Medicine and four (4)
11 designated regional College of Veterinary Medicine to be located
12 strategically in four (4) selected regions within the agriculture
13 education subsystem.

14 CHAPTER IV. ROLES AND FUNCTIONS OF INSTITUTIONS

15 IN EACH LEVEL OF THE NETWORK

16 SEC. 8. The National Colleges (NCs) shall:

17 a) Concentrate on the post-graduate programs and curricular models
18 in the tertiary level;

19 b) Be responsible for the conduct of basic and applied researches and
20 other scientific innovations;

21 c) Assist the RCs and institutes in their development efforts towards
22 excellence, effectiveness and relevance, in instruction, research
23 and extension or technology transfer;

24 d) Link up with national and international agencies to keep abreast of
25 local needs and scientific advances; and

26 e) Share its expertise and facilities with the Government and private
27 sector as far as policy recommendations, program planning and
28 evaluation, and staff training are concerned.

29 SEC. 9. The Regional Colleges (RCs) shall:

- 1 a) Concentrate on Bachelor of Science degrees with reasonable
2 involvement in the postgraduate and model technology courses;
- 3 b) Focus on adaptive researches needed in the region with
4 reasonable involvement in basic and applied researches and
5 verification projects;
- 6 c) Assist technical institutes in strengthening their institutional
7 capabilities towards relevance, effectiveness and excellence in
8 instruction, action research and technology transfer; and
- 9 d) Link up with and assist government regional offices in planning and
10 evaluating their programs and in training their staff for agriculture
11 activities.

12 SEC. 10. The Regional Institutes of Fisheries Technology shall:

- 13 a) Concentrate on the Diploma in Fisheries Technology designed for
14 the training of fisheries technicians on technical skills required of
15 the fisheries industry;
- 16 b) Conduct verification tests of new techniques developed by research
17 institutions and transfer positive results to field technicians,
18 fishermen and fishfarmers;
- 19 c) Assist the Fisherman's Training Center of BFAR in planning,
20 implementing and evaluating their programs and training;
- 21 d) Assist high schools with fishery practical arts subjects to the
22 development of their instructional materials.

23 SEC. 11. The Provincial Technical Institutes (PTIs) shall:

- 24 a) Concentrate their curricular programs on technical and technology
25 courses designed for farming and extension work with reasonable
26 involvement in selected degree and non-degree post-secondary
27 advanced technology related courses in agriculture;
- 28 b) Conduct pilot/action researches and verification trials to
29 demonstrate advances in agricultural technology and transfer the

1 same to technicians and farmers through fields days, short courses
2 and training programs;

3 c) Serve as a learning and technology resource for development
4 agencies in the province in planning and evaluating programs and
5 in training technicians, small farmers, agricultural producers and
6 entrepreneurs; and

7 d) Extend improved appropriate agricultural technologies to secondary
8 and vocational high schools.

9 **SEC. 12. Other Roles and Functions of the Institutions.** – In addition
10 to their regular roles and functions, all the member institutions mentioned above
11 shall also serve as the *agricultural training centers in their respective areas* and
12 offer continuing and adult education courses for related line agency
13 staff/farmers/fisherfolk and community leaders to hasten technology transfer,
14 improve attitudes towards farming, and inculcate the importance of agriculture in
15 nation building in support to the Magna Carta for Small Farmers. It shall also be
16 the function of the institutions to provide assistance to students in conducting
17 their income-generating projects as well as placement of their graduates.

18 **CHAPTER V. IMPLEMENTING AND COORDINATING MECHANISMS**

19 **SEC. 13. Agricultural Education Development Council (AEDEC).** –
20 The existing Technical Panel for Agricultural Education (TPAE) is hereby
21 transformed into the Agricultural Education Development Council (AEDEC) as
22 the governing advisory policy body which is autonomous and attached to the
23 Department of Education (DepEd) with the following composition and functions:

24 a) **Composition.** – The AEDEC shall be composed of the following
25 members to be appointed by the Secretary of Education, Culture and Sports as
26 its Ex-Officio Chairman:

27 1) One (1) outstanding scientist, educationist or practitioner
28 from each of the fields of Crop Science, Animal Science,
29 Agricultural Engineering, Fisheries, Forestry, Veterinary

1 Medicine, Agriculture Teacher Education who shall be
2 nominated by heads of faculties, scientific or professional
3 groups for a term of three (3) years, and from among
4 themselves a Vice-Chairman shall be chosen;

5 2) One (1) representative each from the Department of
6 Agriculture, Department of Environment and Natural
7 Resources, Department of Agrarian Reform, Department of
8 Science and Technology, Department of Budget and
9 Management and the National Economic and Development
10 Authority;

11 3) One (1) representative from the Bureau of Higher Education,
12 Department of Education, Culture and Sports;

13 4) One (1) representative from the Professional Regulation
14 Commission;

15 5) One (1) representative from the Philippine Federation of
16 Professional Associations;

17 6) One (1) representative from the Federation or Association of
18 Colleges of Agriculture in the Philippines; and

19 7) One (1) representative from the Fund for Assistance to
20 Private Education.

21 b) Functions. – The AEDEC shall have the following duties and
22 functions:

23 1) To study and review the overall philosophy and goals of
24 agriculture and environment education in relation to the
25 regional, national and international developments in
26 agriculture and industry and formulate alternative directions
27 and plans;

- 1 2) To assess and identify the agriculture and environmental
2 education, training and employment needs of the country in
3 consultation with NEDA and other concerned agencies;
- 4 3) To undertake policy, educational and evaluation research
5 and recommend measures to improve agriculture and
6 environmental education;
- 7 4) To formulate and recommend guidelines and minimum
8 educational standards with respect to curricula, faculty,
9 equipment and facilities, library resources, student services,
10 quality of output and other related criteria which shall be
11 applicable to all NAES member-institutions;
- 12 5) To develop and implement coordinative and collaborative
13 mechanism of monitoring and evaluation of activities of
14 NAES;
- 15 6) To establish and operate a Management Information System
16 (MIS) for the NAES;
- 17 7) To provide technical assistance to educational institutions in
18 the planning, development and implementation of agriculture
19 and environmental education programs in cooperation with
20 appropriate agencies;
- 21 8) To receive or recommend grants or both for the funding of
22 educational research and development following the existing
23 accounting and auditing manual for research operations;
- 24 9) To appoint AEDEC staff and employees upon the
25 recommendation and endorsement of the Executive Director;
26 and
- 27 10) To formulate implementing rules and regulations of this Act
28 and recommend the same to the Secretary of Education,

1 Culture and Sports within six (6) months after the effectivity
2 of this Act; and

3 11) To perform such other functions as may be deemed
4 necessary.

5 **SEC. 14. Secretariat.** – The AEDEC shall be assisted by technical and
6 administrative staff with appointment on permanent status to be headed by an
7 Executive Director. The Secretariat' s office shall be at the University where the
8 National College of Agriculture is located. The services of a pool of
9 experts/consultants/resource persons on full-time or part-time status shall be
10 provided on special detail or secondment subject to the guidelines approved by
11 AEDEC.

12 **SEC. 15. Budgetary Scheme shall be as follows:**

13 a) The current appropriations or budgets of the public educational
14 institutions in the NAES designated as the national colleges and regional
15 colleges shall continue and shall be modified or adjusted in succeeding years in
16 order to meet the standards of the rationalized programs of the institutions as
17 approved by the Department of Budget and Management and shall be included
18 in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

19 b) The PTIs/RIFTs in the NAES which are designated or newly
20 created under this Act shall likewise be provided budgetary support based on
21 their programs and new staffing pattern as approved by the Department of
22 Budget and Management and shall be included in the Annual General
23 Appropriations Act. Additional institutes that may be established in the province
24 shall solely be supported by provincial government funds.

25 c) This Act shall hereby allocate an endowment lumpsum amount of
26 Five million pesos (P5,000,000.00) per annum for the next ten (10) years and
27 shall be included in the General Appropriations Act starting calendar year 1994.
28 This fund shall be called as the Agriculture Education Program Development
29 Fund to support the development, improvement and implementation of priority

1 agriculture education and farmers' entrepreneurial training programs of NAES
2 member institutions: *Provided, further,* That such fund shall be invested in
3 government bonds and securities and managed by AEDEC using only the
4 interest earnings of the said fund.

5 d) The operations of the AEDEC shall be funded initially from the
6 DECS budget allocation for the Technical Panel for Agricultural Education
7 (TPAE). Upon the effectivity of this Act, TPAE shall be replaced by the AEDEC
8 and all equipment, qualified personnel and projects of the TPAE shall be
9 transferred to AEDEC. Subsequently, the initial amount of at least Three million
10 pesos (P3,000,000.00) shall be allocated for the AEDEC in the Annual General
11 Appropriations Act.

12 **SEC. 16. Fiduciary, Endowment and Revolving Funds.** – The Fiduciary
13 and Revolving Funds centralized under P.D. 711 are hereby authorized and
14 reallocated to the institutions in NAES to encourage them to demonstrate the
15 technologies that they develop in their laboratories, experimental farms and
16 income-generating projects, furthermore endowment funds shall be authorized to
17 be accumulated in the institutions, out of any funds generated from unallocated
18 savings, earnings or from any other external sources to be used as incentives for
19 professorial chairs, teachers/employees incentives award systems, faculty
20 fellowship programs and the like. Such funds shall be disbursed in accordance
21 with law and guidelines set by AEDEC and the Commission on Audit.

22 **CHAPTER VII. INCENTIVES, PRIVILEGES AND BENEFITS**

23 **SEC. 17. Incentives for Private Institutions.** - Private colleges or
24 universities that may be designated to perform any role in the system shall
25 basically be supported out of their private funds raised and solicited for its
26 operations. They shall be supported through the Fund for Assistance to Private
27 Education (FAPE), national grants, educational development subsidies, and
28 other forms of incentives such as *deregulation of tuition and other fees and tax*
29 exemptions especially on importation of books and equipment.

1 SEC. 18. **Incentives for Agriculture Education Graduates.** – The
2 following incentives are hereby provided to graduates to facilitate and maximize
3 their contributions to agriculture and national government:

4 a) Agriculture Education Entrepreneurial Loan. – Graduates desiring
5 to establish agribusiness enterprises shall be provided with a loan not exceeding
6 One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) upon submission of an
7 authenticated diploma, a good feasibility study and is secured by a chattel
8 mortgage of assets acquired from the loan. Mechanisms to operationalize said
9 loan shall be provided by the Central Bank of the Philippines through the
10 Philippine, Land Bank of the Philippines and other interested commercial or
11 cooperative banks with the assistance of the AEDEC.

12 b) Tax Incentives. – Graduates venturing into priority agribusiness
13 processing and manufacturing industries may avail of tax incentives under the
14 Board of Investments priority plan as provided by law and the Kalakalan 20 under
15 R.A. No. 1648.

16 CHAPTER VII. SPECIAL PROVISIONS

17 SEC. 19. **By virtue of this Act,** the non-chartered DECS managed
18 colleges that may be designated to perform the role of a regional college in the
19 NAES shall follow the structure of a state college as provided for in the *guidelines*
20 of the Department of Budget and Management starting at level four.

21 SEC. 20. **Provincial Technical Institutes.** – This Act shall hereby
22 authorize the Secretary of Education, Culture and Sports upon endorsement of
23 the AEDEC through the *recommendations of the provincial government or the*
24 regional development councils as the case may be the designations and/or
25 change of status of potential institutions into Technical Institutes of Agriculture in
26 each province and Institutes of Fisheries Technology in each region within the
27 NAES: *Provided, however,* That such designations including the institutions
28 identified within the NAES be published in the Government's official gazette:
29 *Provided, further,* That such institutes shall be headed by a Director and shall be

1 allowed to adopt the existing titles and academic ranks accorded to a college
2 faculty: *Provided, furthermore,* That such institutes which are attached to mother
3 units shall have a Director by designation whereas those independent institutes
4 shall have a Director with a plantilla position.

5 SEC. 21. **Repealing Clause.** – All existing laws, rules, and regulations or
6 parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed,
7 superseded, or modified accordingly.

8 SEC. 22. **Separability Clause.** – If any part, section or provision of this
9 Act shall be held invalid or unconstitutional, no other part, section or provision
10 hereof shall be affected thereby.

11 SEC. 23. **Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
12 publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

13 Approved,