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SENATE
S.B. No. 2095

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Introduced By Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The use of modern methods of farming and animal husbandry, such as urban agriculture and vertical farming, to improve agricultural production is important to address every person's right to adequate food and to protection from hunger.


Urban agriculture is the production, processing and marketing of food within a town, city or metropolis, with the application of intensive production methods, such as the use and re-use of urban resources and wastes, to yield a diversity of crops and livestock.

Vertical farming is the construction of skyscrapers or the use of abandoned buildings for the sole purpose of cultivating and farming produce and livestock with the use of various farming methods and technologies such as hydroponics, aeroponics, aquaponics and phytoremediation.

If traditional farming practices continue as presently being practiced, there will not be enough land to sustain the production of food required to meet the demand for food supplies. Take for example the reliance of over 3 billion people around the world on rice as a major food staple. The Philippines struggles to maintain and in fact to increase rice production in order to meet domestic demand as well as to compete in the international market. However, the allocation of land for rice production rivals the need to devote land for housing and industrial development. Urban agriculture and vertical farming is a solution suggested by experts all over the globe.

This measure proposes to institutionalize, strengthen and promote urban agriculture and vertical farming in order to meet food sufficiency targets, create agricultural jobs despite the rapid industrialization of many areas and the development of innovative agricultural techniques apt for the present time.

Hence, the undersigned sponsor urges the passage of this measure.



MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator *MLR*

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

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S.B. No 2095

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AN ACT
PROMOTING THE USE OF URBAN AGRICULTURE AND VERTICAL FARMING
IN THE COUNTRY'S METROPOLITAN AREAS TO ADDRESS FOOD SECURITY
CONCERNS AND REGENERATE ECOSYSTEM FUNCTIONS
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 "**Urban Agriculture**
2 **and Vertical Farming Act of 2014**".
3

4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is the policy of the State to protect the right of
5 every person to adequate food supply and to promote the achievement of self-
6 sufficiency in food production. Towards this end, key reforms for the development of
7 modern, appropriate, cost-effective and environmentally safe agricultural technologies
8 are hereby encouraged in order to ensure the food security of the country.
9

10 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** - For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall
11 be understood to refer to the following:

12 (a) "Urban agriculture" shall refer to the practice of cultivating, processing and
13 distributing of food in or around a village, town or city. Urban agriculture
14 also involves animal husbandry, aquaculture, agro-forestry and horticulture.

15 (b) "Vertical farming" shall refer to the method of farming that is brought to the
16 urban space by employing the concepts of indoor agriculture in skyscrapers
17 and other modern buildings.

1 **SEC. 4. *Comprehensive Research on Urban Agriculture and Vertical Farming.*** -

2 For purposes of this Act, the respective Secretaries of the Department of Agriculture
3 (DA) and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) are hereby mandated to
4 promote the use of urban agriculture and vertical farming in the country's metropolitan
5 areas as an instrument to address food security concerns and regenerate ecosystem
6 functions in the Philippines.

7 Idle and/or abandoned government lots and buildings owned by either the
8 national governments or local governments or available land resources in state
9 universities and colleges shall be considered for growing crops, raising livestock and
10 producing food using the said methods.

11 The DA and DOST shall support and launch research activities to expand the
12 knowledge and understanding of urban agriculture and vertical farming to be used in
13 food production. A renewed investment into advanced technology research in order to
14 adopt state-of-the-art technologies to promote agricultural production in our high
15 value-added crops and vegetables shall be launched pursuant thereto.

16
17 **SEC. 5. *Inclusion of Urban Agriculture and Vertical Farming in Agricultural***
18 ***Training.*** - Urban agriculture and vertical farming as used in agricultural production
19 shall be integrated in the academic curriculum for secondary and tertiary level students
20 of both public and private academic institutions for studying courses on Agriculture,
21 Practical Arts, Home Economics and/or other subjects related to agriculture .

22 The Department of Education (DepEd), in coordination with the Commission on
23 Higher Education (CHED), shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the
24 implementation of this Section within six (6) months from the date of effectivity of this
25 Act.

26
27 **SEC. 6. *Appropriation.*** - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this
28 Act shall be included and incorporated in the annual general appropriations of the
29 Department of Agriculture, Department of Science and Technology, Department of
30 Education and Commission on Higher Education.

31
32 **SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - Within six (6) months from the
33 date of effectivity of this Act, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of
34 Science and Technology shall promulgate such implementing rules and regulations
35 necessary for the proper implementation of this Act.

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SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part of this Act shall be declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,