

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



'16 AUG -3 P 6:14

SENATE

S.B. No. 983

RECEIVED BY:

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Introduced by Senator Francis N. Pangilinan

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**AN ACT PROMOTING INTEGRATED URBAN AGRICULTURE AND VERTICAL FARMING TO ADDRESS FOOD SECURITY CONCERNS AND TO PROVIDE LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

According to the United Nations (UN), "the world's population is expected to increase to 9.1 billion by 2050" and around 70% of said population, as estimated by the UN Population Division, will be living in urban areas.

The UN Human Settlements Program estimated around "250 million hungry people in the world live in cities" and that "low income urban dwellers spend between 40% to 60% of their income on food each year."

"Hunger, poverty, and environmental degradation" were identified by the United Nations Development (UNDP) as "the problems that most urban areas in developing countries are facing."

Feeding the world population means increasing food production by 70% which, according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), can be done "through higher crop yields and an expansion of the area under cultivation."

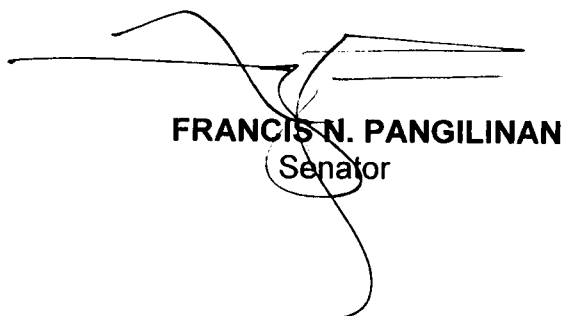
"Farming in the city" or urban agriculture is one solution suggested by the UNDP. Urban agriculture, as defined by the FAO, is "an industry that produces, processes and markets food and fuel, largely in response to the daily demand of consumers within a town, city or metropolis, on land and water dispersed throughout the urban and peri-urban area, applying intensive production methods, using and reusing natural resources and urban waste to yield a diversity of crop and livestock.

Urban agriculture, as claimed by the UNDP, "has the potential of providing much higher nutritional improvement, hunger reduction, income generation, enterprise development, and environmental improvement to the city."

The proposed measure aims to institutionalize "urban agriculture" and "vertical farming" in highly urbanized cities nationwide. "Integrated Urban Agriculture", as defined in the bill, refers to "the practice of cultivating, processing and distributing of food in, or around a village, town or city" and involves "animal husbandry, aquaculture, agro-forestry and horticulture." Vertical Farming is a "method of farming that is brought to the urban space by employing the concepts of indoor agriculture in skyscrapers and other modern buildings".

Urban agriculture and vertical farming aims to reduce urban poverty, ensure food security, and enhance urban environment management.

In view of the foregoing the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



**FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN**  
Senator

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*Be 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 "*Integrated Urban*  
2       *Agriculture Act of 2016.*"

3       **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy** - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to  
4       reaffirm the fundamental right of every person to adequate food and to be free from  
5       hunger. The achievement of self-sufficiency in food production and building climate  
6       resilient communities is therefore adopted as primary state policy. Towards this end,  
7       key reforms for the development of modern, appropriate, cost-effective and  
8       environmentally safe agriculture technologies are hereby encouraged in order to ensure  
9       the food security of the country.

10       **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms** - For the purpose of this Act, the term:

11       3.1. "*Integrated Urban Agriculture*" shall refer to the practice of cultivating, processing  
12       and distributing of food in, or around a village, town or city. Integrated Urban agriculture  
13       also involves animal husbandry, aquaculture, agro-forestry and horticulture.

1        3.2. "*Vertical Farming*" shall refer to the method of farming that is brought to the  
2 urban space by employing the concepts of indoor agriculture in skyscrapers and other  
3 modern buildings.

4        **SEC. 4. *Comprehensive Research on Integrated Urban Farming*** - For purposes  
5 of this Act, the respective Secretaries of the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the  
6 Department of Science and Technology (DOST) are hereby mandated to promote the  
7 use of integrated urban agriculture and vertical farming in the country's metropolitan  
8 areas as an instrument to address food security concerns and regenerate ecosystem  
9 function of the Philippines.

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

14        Safety standards must be followed such that DOST and other pertinent agencies  
15 should include research and development of appropriate technologies necessary in  
16 promoting integrated agriculture technologies.

17        **SEC. 5. *Inclusion of Urban Agriculture and Vertical Farming in Agricultural***  
18 ***Training*** - Urban agriculture and vertical farming are 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 studying courses on Agriculture,  
21 Practical Arts, Home Economics and/or other subjects related to agriculture. A course  
22 curriculum on gardening/urban gardening shall also be developed and included into the  
23 regular curriculum of both elementary and secondary education.

24        All elementary and secondary schools, public or private, state colleges and  
25 universities shall implement urban gardening/agriculture and include in its regular  
26 curriculum its practical or lion-hand application.

27        For universities and colleges, urban gardening or agriculture shall form part of the  
28 required period of time spent by students in the National Service Training Program

1 (NSTP) or the Citizen Military Training (CMT). A plan therefore for the utilization or the  
2 maximizing space occupied by schools shall be formulated specifically for urban  
3 gardening/agriculture. Instructional materials shall also be developed.

4 The Department of Education (DepEd), in coordination with the Commission on  
5 Higher Education (CHED), shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the  
6 implementation of this section within six (6) months from the date of effectively hereof.

7 **SEC. 6. Creation and Composition of the Urban Farming Council (UFC).** - There  
8 is hereby established an Urban Farming Council (UFC) which shall be attached to the  
9 Department of Agriculture. The UFC shall compose of the following members:

- 10 (a) The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA) who shall serve as Chair of  
11 the UFC;
- 12 (b) The Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
13 (DENR);
- 14 (c) The Secretary of the Department of Finance (DOF);
- 15 (d) The Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST);
- 16 (e) The Representative from the People's Organizations (PO);
- 17 (f) The Representative from the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO);
- 18 (g) The Representative from the National Urban Poor Sector Council of the National  
19 Anti- Poverty Commission (NUPSC-NAPC);
- 20 (h) The National President of the League of the Cities of the Philippines;
- 21 (i) The National President of the League of the Municipalities of the Philippines; and,
- 22 (j) The Representative from the private sector who have an expertise in urban  
23 farming and/or vertical farming.

24 **SEC. 7. Appropriation** - The amount equivalent to two percent (2%) of the total  
25 budget shall be included and incorporated in the annual general appropriations of the  
26 Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Science and Technology (DOST),  
27 Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the  
28 Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG).

1       **SEC. 8. Local Government Units' Participation** - The local government units shall  
2 formulate policy on the practice of urban farming, utilizing unused spaces and idle  
3 lands. This shall require the enactment of local legislation institutionalizing urban  
4 gardening or agriculture in all levels of the LGU. This also shall require local  
5 governments to enact measures or ordinances that will include urban  
6 gardening/agriculture as regular component in budget appropriations of local  
7 government unit.

8       All cities and urbanized municipalities where urban farming activities are conducted  
9 shall extend whatever assistance necessary for the urban practitioners/farmers to  
10 exercise Urban Farming and benefit from any incentives under this Act.

11       All homeowners associations, neighborhood associations and community  
12 associations and/or people's organizations are encouraged to participate in urban  
13 farming activities within their area of operations. The concerned LGU shall grant  
14 necessary incentives for the benefits of the members of the concerned associations or  
15 people's organizations who actively participating in urban farming activities.

16       **SEC. 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations** -Within six (6) months from the  
17 date of effectivity of this Act, the DA, the DOST, the DepEd, the CHED, the DILG, and  
18 the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) through the National Urban Poor Sector  
19 Council (NUPSC), Private Sectors, Business Group, Input Providers, Consumer  
20 Groups, Informal Settlers and most vulnerable Sectors, Non-Government Organizations  
21 and other stakeholders shall promulgate the necessary implementing rules and  
22 regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

23       **SEC. 10. Separability Clause** - If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or  
24 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall  
25 remain valid and subsisting.

26       **SEC. 11. Repealing Clause** - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive  
27 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or  
28 inconsistent with the provision of this act is hereby repealed, modified or amended  
29 accordingly.

1        **SEC. 12. *Effectivity Clause*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from the  
2 date of its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers  
3 of general circulation.

*Approved,*