

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



23 FEB -7 P5 :48

SENATE

S. No. 1853

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

**AN ACT
CREATING AN AGRICULTURAL PENSION PROGRAM TO PROVIDE SOCIAL
SECURITY AND PENSION BENEFITS TO FARMERS AND FISHERFOLK**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The farmers and fisherfolk play a significant role in food security and economic development. However, in a World Bank Report, "the farmers and fisherfolk residing in rural areas remain the poorest since 2006. Farmers were recorded with 31.6% poverty incidence in 2018 while fishers with 26.2%. Basically, around 5.5 million farmers and 4.6 million fisherfolks are poor."

The famous Filipino song, "*Magtanim ay 'di biro*," provides a vivid narrative of the decades of backbreaking work and poverty endured by the farmers which instinctively would desire that their children do not follow in their footsteps.

In the November 2022 Labor Force Survey by the Philippine Statistics Authority, around 21% of the country's labor force are employed in agriculture. The lack of long term benefits coupled by low income and undesirable work conditions are compounding factors affecting the number of agriculture workers which will definitely affect food security. Hence, this measure hopes to reduce their socio-economic risks and vulnerabilities.

This measure proposes the establishment of the Farmers and Fisherfolk Social Security and Pension Program that will provide the agriculture workers with social pension upon retirement. The said social security program will be implemented by the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC) and the Social Security System (SSS).

In view of recognizing the vital role of the farmers and fisherfolk in ensuring food security, and in the national development, the approval of this bill is most earnestly sought


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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*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 "*Pensyon para Pilipinong*
2 *Magsasaka at Mangingisda Act of 2023*".

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to:

4 a. Revitalize the agriculture industry towards sustainability and create the
5 necessary conditions to end hunger, achieve food security, and improve the general
6 health and nutrition of Filipinos;

7 b. Recognize the fundamental role and give proper value to the contributions
8 of farmers and fisherfolk in our daily survival, national development, and in ensuring
9 long-term food security;

10 c. Protect and promote the welfare of farmers and fisherfolk by putting in place
11 measures that would reduce their socio-economic risks and vulnerabilities, thereby
12 improving their quality of life; and

13 d. Establish and institutionalize a comprehensive pension and social security
14 program for the benefit of agricultural workers.

15 Sec. 3. *The Farmers and Fisherfolk Social Security and Pension Program.* -
16 There is hereby established the "*Farmers and Fisherfolk Social Security and Pension*
17 *Program*," herein referred to as the Program, which shall provide agricultural workers
18 a substantial and reliable source of income security and secured retirement in their

1 old age. The Program shall consist of a comprehensive and holistic approach in the
2 provision of sickness, maternity, disability, retirement, death, and funeral benefits to
3 farmers and fisherfolk. It shall be integrated and made consistent with the package
4 benefits under Social Security System (SSS) and relevant programs of the Department
5 of Agriculture (DA) and the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC).

6 *Sec. 4. Implementing Agencies.* - The PCIC, an attached agency of the DA, and
7 the SSS shall be the primary implementing agencies of the provisions of this Act. To
8 fulfill the goals of this Act, they shall perform the following duties and functions:

- 9 a. The SSS and PCIC shall tap the expertise of other relevant government offices
10 in the formulation of the objectives, targets, and approaches under the
11 Program.
- 12 b. The PCIC shall manage the registration system of eligible agricultural workers
13 under the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA) and
14 maintain the required operational reports.
- 15 c. The SSS shall manage the funds allocated and the social security and pension
16 scheme of the Program and maintain the required actuarial and financial
17 reports.
- 18 d. The PCIC and the SSS shall perform other duties and functions necessary in
19 the efficient and effective implementation of this Act. The PCIC and the SSS
20 shall collaborate with and secure the technical assistance of the DA in all stages
21 of implementation of this Act

22 The DA shall ensure that the objectives of the Program are met and shall
23 evaluate and monitor the Program's contribution to the productivity of the agricultural
24 sector and the improvement of the quality of life of farmers and fisherfolk.

25 *Sec. 5. Appropriations.* - The amount necessary to carry out the initial
26 implementation of this Act shall be drawn from the savings of the National
27 Government. Thereafter, the funds necessary for the continuous implementation of
28 the program shall be sourced from ten percent (10%) of the total annual duties
29 collected from the importation of agricultural products. The supplemental amount
30 necessary for its implementation shall be included in the annual appropriations of the
31 DA.

1 *Sec. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* - Within ninety (90) days
2 from the date of effectivity of this Act, the PCIC shall, in consultation with the DA,
3 SSS, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and the Department of
4 Finance (DOF), formulate the IRR for the proper implementation of this Act.

5 *Sec. 7. Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or
6 unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall remain
7 in full force and effect.

8 *Sec. 8. Repealing Clause.* – All laws, orders, decrees, rules and regulations, and
9 other parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed,
10 amended or modified accordingly.

11 *Sec. 9. Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
12 publication either in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation
13 in the Philippines.

Approved,