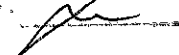


14th CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

8 MAY 27 1987

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

Senate Bill No. 2331

Introduced by Senator EDGARDO J. ANGARA

Philippine agriculture is in crisis. The country has continually faced the problem of high food cost; it has the highest food prices among the ASEAN countries. And most recently, it experienced shortage of its most important staple food: rice. The high cost of food, being wage goods, has affected the competitiveness of the country's industry specially those in export. Compounding the problem is high rural poverty.

Agriculture and Fisheries extension is central to growth and development of the agriculture and fisheries sector. How a country manages its agriculture knowledge through its extension services is crucial to agriculture growth and development. Knowledge at the hands of the producers empowers and gives them the competitive edge. Extension, along with Research and Development (R&D), has the highest return of investment (ROI) among policy instruments. Therefore, it is worth investing on it.

Agriculture growth should come from knowledge-intensive practices in agriculture such as crop intensification. However, knowledge intensive agriculture (KIA) is dependent on a dynamic, responsive agriculture and fisheries extension with strong linkage to knowledge generation. Unfortunately, Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Services (AFES) in the Philippines face serious problems that affect its efficiency and effectiveness. The extension unit is highly fragmented, lacks a coherent direction, demoralized and composed of aging personnel who has not fully recovered from the effects of decentralization, weak research-extension linkage, underinvestment, and highly politicized structure among others.

The proposed Agriculture and Fisheries Extension bill will address the current problems and more.

The bill seeks to:

1. Strengthen the country's extension system by decentralizing it to the appropriate level of political unit that provides a viable economic unit for agriculture development i.e., the province;
2. Making the national government pay for the salaries and wages of extension personnel under the administrative direction of the provincial government;
3. Professionalizing and standardizing the salaries and wages of the Local Government Unit (LGU) extension personnel to that of equivalent positions in the national government;
4. Creating a national agency, the Philippine Agriculture & Fisheries Extension Agency (PAFEA) to orchestrate, provide national directions, set standards of performance, and provide institutionalized financial and technical support to the LGUs.


Hence, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


EDGARDO J. ANGARA
SENATOR

1 14th CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
2 OF THE PHILIPPINES)
3 First regular Session)

8 MAY 27 2008

7 SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

9 S. No. 2331

11 _____
12 Introduced by SENATOR EDGARDO J. ANGARA
13 _____

14 AN ACT PRESCRIBING THE STRENGTHENING OF THE NATIONAL
15 EXTENSION SYSTEM TO ACCELERATE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES
16 DEVELOPMENT, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER
17 PURPOSES

18
19 *Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the*
20 *Philippines in Congress assembled:*

22
23 GENERAL PROVISIONS

24
25 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Philippine Agriculture
26 and Fisheries Extension Act of 2008.”

27
28 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The goals of the national economy are a more
29 equitable distribution of opportunities, income and wealth; a sustained
30 increase in the amount of goods and services produced by the nation for the
31 benefit of the people; and an expanding productivity as the key to raising the
32 quality of life for all, especially the underprivileged.

33
34 The State shall promote industrialization and full employment based on sound
35 agricultural development and agrarian reform, through industries that make

1 full and efficient use of human and natural resources, and which are
2 competitive in both domestic and foreign markets. In pursuit of these goals, all
3 sectors of the economy and all regions of the country shall be given optimum
4 opportunity to develop.

5

6 Thus, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to enable those who belong
7 to the agriculture and fisheries sector to participate and share in the fruits of
8 development and growth in a manner that utilizes the nation's resources in the
9 most efficient and sustainable way possible by establishing a more equitable
10 access to assets, income, basic and support services and infrastructure.

11

12 The State shall give priority to promote science, technology and human
13 resource development as essentials for national development and progress.
14 The State shall utilize research results through information, extension and
15 communication services. It shall support the development of a national
16 extension system that will help accelerate the transformation of agriculture
17 and fisheries sectors of the Country from a resource-based industry to a
18 technology-based industry.

19

20 The State shall adopt the market approach in assisting the agriculture and
21 fisheries sector while recognizing the contribution of said sectors to food
22 security, environmental protection, and balanced urban and rural
23 development, without neglecting the welfare of the consumers, especially the
24 lower income groups. The State shall promote market-oriented policies in
25 agricultural production to encourage farmers to shift to more profitable crops.

26

27 The State shall empower the agriculture and fisheries sector to develop and
28 sustain themselves to meet present and future needs of the Country. Toward
29 this end, the State shall ensure the establishment and development of the
30 agriculture and fisheries extension system that increases and sustains its
31 contributions to the achievement of the following goals of agriculture
32 modernization as mandated by Republic Act 8435:

33

- 1 a) Poverty Alleviation and Social Equity – The State shall ensure that the
2 poorer sector of the society have equitable access to resources,
3 income opportunities, basic and support services and infrastructure;
4
- 5 b) Food Security – The State shall assure the availability, adequacy,
6 accessibility and affordability of quality and nutritious food supplies to
7 all at all times;
8
- 9 c) Rational Use of Resources and Sustainable Development - The State
10 shall adopt a rational approach in the allocation of public investment in
11 agriculture and fisheries in order to assure efficiency and effectiveness
12 in the use of scarce resources and thus obtain optimal return on its
13 investments. The State shall promote development that is compatible
14 with the preservation of the ecosystem in areas where agriculture and
15 fisheries activities are carried out;
16
- 17 d) Global Competitiveness – The State shall enhance the competitiveness
18 of the agriculture and fisheries sector in both domestic and foreign
19 markets; and
20
- 21 e) People Empowerment – The State shall promote people empowerment
22 by enabling all citizens through direct participation or through their duly
23 elected chosen or designated representatives the opportunity to
24 participate in policy formulation and decision making by establishing
25 the appropriate mechanisms and by giving them access to information.
26

27 *Sec. 3. Definition of Terms.*
28

29 "Agricultural and Fisheries Extension Services" (AFES) – refer to the provision
30 of training, information, communication support, and other educational
31 services by the government, private sector, civil society, and other non-
32 government organizations to improve the individual and organizational
33 capabilities of clients along the value chain towards increased income and
34 improved quality of rural life.

1

2 "Agricultural Sector" – is the sector engaged in the cultivation of the soil,
3 planting of crops, growing of fruit trees, raising of livestock, poultry, or fish,
4 including the harvesting and marketing of such farm products, and other farm
5 activities and practices.

6

7 "Catalytic Financing" –the provision of financial support to achieve excellence,
8 equity and increased investment by the local governments in the
9 implementation of agriculture and fisheries extension services towards the
10 achievement of national goals.

11

12 "Civil Society" – refers to the group of organizations whose uncoerced
13 collective action revolves around shared interests, purposes and values. Civil
14 societies are organizations composed of community groups, women's
15 organizations, faith-based organizations, professional associations, trades
16 unions, self-help groups, social movements, business associations, coalitions
17 and advocacy groups.

18

19 "Clients" – refer to the producers (farmers, fisherfolk, and agricultural
20 processors), traders and consumers along the food value chain.

21

22 "Comparative Advantage" – refers to competitive edge in the provision of
23 services or development of a product in terms quality and/or price. It likewise
24 refers to the ability to produce a product or provide a service with the greatest
25 relative efficiency in the use of resources.

26

27 "Consolidation" – a process of merging agencies/firms for greater efficiency of
28 resources and strategy.

29

30 "Consumers" – are those that acquire goods or services for direct use or
31 ownership rather than for resale or use in production and manufacturing.

32

33 "Decentralization" - means the dispersion or distribution of functions and
34 power from a central authority to regional and/or local governing bodies;

1 assigning responsibilities to the lowest level of government closest to the
2 clients i.e., the Local Government Units or LGU's

3

4 "Empowerment" – is the expansion of assets and capabilities of people to
5 participate in, negotiate with, influence, control and hold accountable
6 institutions that affect their lives; it involves providing authority, responsibility,
7 and information to people directly engaged on agriculture and fishery
8 production, primarily at the level of the farmers, fisherfolk and those engaged
9 in food and non-food production and processing, in order to give them
10 enhanced economics rights.

11

12 "Extension Policy" – edicts, executive orders, laws, orders, and other course
13 of action of the government intended to influence and determine decisions,
14 actions, and other matters related to provision of extension services of the
15 Country.

16

17 "Fisheries Sector" – is the sector engaged in the production, growing,
18 harvesting, processing, marketing, developing, conserving, and managing of
19 all aquatic resources and fisheries areas.

20

21 "Fisheries" – refers to all systems or networks of interrelated activities which
22 include the production, growing, harvesting, processing, marketing,
23 developing, conserving and managing of all aquatic and fisheries areas.

24

25 "Food Security" – refers to the policy objective, plan and strategy of meeting
26 the food requirements of the present and future generations of Filipinos in
27 substantial quantity, ensuring the availability and affordability of safe and
28 nutritious food to all, either through local production or importation, or both,
29 based on the country's existing and potential resource endowment and
30 related production advantages, and consistent with the overall national
31 development objectives and policies.

32

33 "Formula grants" – these are national government financial transfers to the
34 local governments to support the regular expenditures in the provision of

1 Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Services (AFES) based on a formula that
2 takes into consideration, among others, the level of economic development of
3 a municipality or a province. .

4

5 “Global Competitiveness” – refers to the ability to compete in terms of price,
6 quality and volume of agriculture and fishery products relative to those of
7 other countries.

8

9 “Gross Value-Added” – refers to the total value, excluding the value of non-
10 agricultural or fisheries intermediate inputs, of goods and services contributed
11 by the agricultural and fisheries sectors.

12

13 “Jurisdictional Spillover” - a service should be controlled and financed at the
14 jurisdictional level where there are no spillovers or externalities on
15 neighboring jurisdictions.

16

17 “Knowledge Management” – is a systematic approach which invents,
18 understands, shares, creates and utilizes knowledge in order to create values
19 such as customer’s value, employee’s value, stockholder’s value, business
20 partner’s value and social value to achieve the vision and goal of the
21 organization.

22

23 “Partnership” – a relationship between and among agencies that is
24 characterized by mutual cooperation and responsibility towards the
25 achievement of a shared goal.

26

27 “Policy Framework” - a structure that serves as guidelines to ensure
28 coherence among the various policies adopted by the government and the
29 different plans and programs they entail.

30

31 “Private Goods” – are goods with a high degree of subtractability and
32 excludability, which should be paid by the private sector. In agriculture, these
33 include seeds/seedlings, fertilizers, small-scale irrigation systems, small cold
34 storage facilities, farm machinery and equipment, abattoir, processing plants.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33

“Private sector” – the part of a nation’s economy that is not owned and managed by the government.

“Processors and Traders” – a wide variety of businesses and entrepreneurs in the agricultural market system that are principally engaged in agricultural activities such as processing, marketing, input provision and storage.

“Producer” - one that produces, especially a person or organization that produces goods or services for sale.

“Public Sector” – the part of the economy concerned with providing basic government services that a non-payer cannot be excluded from services that benefits all of society rather than just the individual who uses the services; services provided by government that encourages equal opportunity.

“RBOs” – are rural based organizations or people’s organizations composed of various sectors of the rural community such as farmers, fisherfolk, growers, seed producers, women, and youth.

“Specialization” – a principle in the provision of public goods wherein limits are imposed on the domain that an organization has authority to assume responsibility for autonomous decision-making.

“Subsidiarity” - administrative responsibilities are assigned to the lowest level of governance capable of carrying out responsibilities competently.

“Targeted financial transfer” – is a financial support provided by the national government to the LGUs in support of national goals or programs.

“Toll Goods” – are goods characterized by excludability, but low subtractability.

1 "Value chain" – is a process from seed to shelf or from the producers to the
2 consumers, showing activities and interventions of/for a chosen
3 commodity/ties based on understanding the needs for such interventions.

4

5

6

7 *Sec. 4. Statement of Goals.* - Agricultural extension is a policy instrument for
8 empowering individuals and organizations; public agriculture extension shall
9 contribute towards the achievement of the national goals of agriculture
10 development.

11

12 *Sec. 5. Statement of Objectives.* - Agriculture and fisheries extension shall
13 contribute to the following objectives:

14

15 a) To enhance the economic rights of:

16

- 17 • Producers, especially the poor, to use the most appropriate
18 technologies they feel will give them the best profit and to choose
19 the most affordable loans in producing the quality and quantity of
20 products and to sell their products freely, domestic or abroad;
- 21 • Traders, to move goods in the expectation of profits unconstrained
22 by serious lack of knowledge and information or peace and order;
23 and
- 24 • Consumers, to buy safe and nutritious foods at the lowest prices
25 possible.

26

27 b) To manage knowledge in strengthening the individual and
28 organizational capabilities of producers, traders and consumers; and

29

30 c) To help create an enabling environment that encourages increased
31 investment in agriculture extension by the private sector, civil society,
32 and Local Governments.

33

1 *Sec. 6. Clients.* – The clients of Philippine agricultural and fisheries extension
2 system are the producers (farmers, fisherfolk, agricultural processors),
3 traders, and consumers along the value chain. Public extension shall focus on
4 the delivery of public goods; its priority clients shall be the disadvantaged
5 groups in agriculture and fisheries such as the farmers and fisherfolk in the
6 marginal areas or fragile environments.

7
8
9 **ARTICLE II**

10 **Structure and Organization**

11
12 *Sec. 7. Creation of the Philippine Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Agency*
13 *(PAFEA).* – The Agricultural Training Institute is hereby strengthened and
14 transformed into the Philippine Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Agency
15 (PAFEA). It shall serve as the national apex organization for a unified and
16 efficient agriculture and fisheries extension system of the country. It shall
17 ensure that public extension services meet the national standards of
18 performance and effectively contribute towards the achievement of the
19 national goals of agriculture and fisheries modernization.

20
21
22 *Sec. 8. Powers and Functions.*

- 23
24 a) Provide leadership in the development of national extension policies in
25 agriculture and fisheries;
26
27 b) Orchestrate the development of extension strategic plan for agriculture
28 and fisheries to accelerate the achievement of the goals of the
29 agriculture and fisheries modernization;
30
31 c) Develop and implement national policies and programs aimed at the
32 continuous improvement of the quality of extension methods, products,
33 and services towards a more efficient and client-responsive national
34 agriculture and fisheries knowledge management system;

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31

- d) Manage the national extension resources for agriculture and fisheries and ensure a sustainable and cost-effective system of funding public agriculture and fisheries information, education, and communication materials (IEC);
- e) Assume leadership in developing and implementing a participatory national agriculture and fisheries knowledge management system to achieve optimal efficiency along the value chain;
- f) Provide leadership in the development and implementation of the National Agriculture & Fisheries Knowledge Network (NAFKN) in agriculture and fisheries of the Department through a system of partnerships that includes the (Local Government Units) LGUs, the academe specially the state colleges/universities of agriculture and fisheries, the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), producers, RBOs, and the private sector;
- g) Provide national leadership in developing extension partnerships towards increased investment and private sector participation;
- h) Team up with state universities and colleges (SUCs) of agriculture/fisheries as key partners in the implementation of the national programs specially in the areas of extension innovations, national training, and monitoring and evaluation of extension institutions and programs; and
- i) Provide leadership in developing and implementing a national system of strengthening institutional extension capacities at all levels of implementation.

32 The Department, through the Philippine Agricultural and Fisheries Extension
33 Agency (PAFEA), shall lead and coordinate all national and local government
34 extension programs in agriculture and fisheries. In coordination with the

1 Department of Budget and Management (DBM), the PAFEA shall review and
2 endorse all agriculture and fisheries IEC programs and budgets of national
3 agencies.

4

5 Sec. 9. *Structure of PAFEA.* – It shall be headed by a Director General (DG)
6 with a rank of Assistant Secretary to be assisted by two Deputy Director
7 Generals (DDG) and they shall be appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture
8 upon recommendation by an independent Search Committee organized and
9 based on the qualification standards set by the *Governing Board for*
10 *Research, Development and Extension (GBRDE) in Agriculture and*
11 *Fisheries.* They shall have a fixed tenure of six (6) years without prejudice for
12 reappointment of one additional term of four (4) years in the same position
13 based on very satisfactory performance.

14

15 Sec. 10. *Governing Board for Research, Development and Extension*
16 *(GBRDE) in Agriculture and Fisheries.* – The Council for Extension Research
17 Development in Agriculture and Fisheries (CERDAF) is hereby strengthened
18 and transformed into the Governing Board for Research, Development and
19 Extension (GBRDE) in Agriculture and Fisheries. It shall ensure that the
20 agriculture and fisheries research, development and extension policies and
21 programs of the Department are consistent with national policies.

22

23 a) Functions and duties of the Governing Board.

24

25 (1) Approve policies covering program priorities and resource
26 allocation in research and extension of all agencies of the
27 Department;

28 (2) Enhance coordination and linkage of government institutions
29 involved in agriculture and fisheries research, development and
30 extension;

31 (3) Strengthen the participation of various stakeholders, especially the
32 civil society, local government units, and private sector in the
33 development of National RDE agenda and programs;

1 (4) Strengthen the institutional efficiency of the National Research,
2 Development and Extension (NRDE) system, including the setting
3 up of a monitoring and evaluation system on the effectiveness and
4 efficiency of its various components; and

5 (5) Set guidelines in the use of services and facilities, collection of fees
6 and in the utilization of income.

7
8 b) Composition of the Governing Board for Research, Development and
9 Extension (GBRDE) in Agriculture and Fisheries. The Undersecretary
10 for Policy and Planning of the DA shall be the Chair of the Board.
11 There shall be a Vice Chair to be elected from among the other
12 members of the Board. The Executive Directors of the Philippine
13 Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Agency (PAFEA) and the Director
14 of the Bureau of Agriculture Research (BAR) shall be *ex-officio*
15 members and the Chair shall appoint Executive Director of PAFEA as
16 Secretary of the Board. The GBRDE shall have the following as
17 members:

18
19 (1) Designated Undersecretaries for Policy & Planning of the following
20 Departments:

- 21
22 i. Department of Science and Technology
23 ii. Department of Environment and Natural Resources
24 iii. Department of Agrarian Reform;

25
26 (2) Presidents of the following LGU organizations:

- 27
28 i. League of Provinces
29 ii. Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP);

30
31 (3) Four (4) CSO representatives from the rural youth, rural women,
32 and farmer, and fisherfolk sectors as identified and selected by the
33 Department of Agriculture*

34

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33

(4) One (1) private sector representative designated by the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP);

- (5) Representatives for scientific/professional organizations/societies;
- One representative for agriculture;
 - One representative of the national professional association of agriculture/fisheries extension; and
 - One representative for fisheries.

Sec. 11. *Offices under the PAFEA.* – To carry out the functions of the Agency, PAFEA shall have four technical directorates as follows:

- Policy Development
- Extension Innovations & National Training
- Knowledge Products & Services Development
- Extension Governance & Partnerships

The PAFEA shall maintain a small regional office to: (1) liaise with the Department Regional Field Units (RFUs) that should serve as the principal arm of the Department to implement extension policies and programs in the regions (2) provide regional technical assistance in the implementation of PAFEA functions and (3) monitor and evaluate extension offices and programs being undertaken by the government agencies. The PAFEA is authorized to utilize existing Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) plantilla positions but in no case shall it exceed 85% of the plantilla positions in 2008.

ARTICLE III

Organization of the Local Government Extension Services

Sec. 12. *Province as the LGU Unit of Operation for Agriculture & Fisheries Extension.* – To achieve efficiency and to provide a more responsive services, the administrative unit for the planning and implementation of the Local

1 Government Units Extension Services is the province under the Office of the
2 Governor that shall be headed by a technically-qualified career Provincial
3 Agriculturist with a rank equal to that of Board Member of the province.

4
5 *Sec. 13. Extension Personnel in the Municipalities.* – All municipal and non-
6 chartered agriculture and fisheries extension personnel are hereby transferred
7 to the province, and they shall become provincial employees upon the
8 enactment of this Act. However, they will continue to serve municipalities and
9 non-chartered cities as detailed employees of the province based on a
10 rationalized organizational structure endorsed by the PAFEA and approved by
11 the Department of Budget & Management.

12
13 *Sec. 14. Salaries and Wages of Extension Personnel.* – The salaries and
14 wages of the agriculture and fisheries technical extension personnel shall be
15 paid by the National Government through an annual grant-in-aid to be paid
16 out of the regular appropriation of the Department of Agriculture. The salaries
17 and wages of technical extension personnel shall be standardized equal to
18 that of comparable positions of national employees.

19
20 *Sec. 15. Structure of the Provincial Extension Services.* – The provincial
21 agriculture and fisheries extension services shall organize and structure its
22 services based on the standards set by the National Government. The PAFEA
23 shall have technical supervision of all agencies of government undertaking
24 agriculture and fisheries extension services

25
26 *Sec. 16. LGU Veterinary Services.* – The LGU veterinary services shall
27 principally perform regulatory functions of inspection to protect animal health
28 and public safety. In cases where veterinary services also perform
29 development functions in livestock production or development, these functions
30 shall be integrated with the other development functions of the agriculture
31 extension services of the Office of the Provincial Agriculturists to avoid conflict
32 of interest.

33

1 Section 17. Strategic Plan in Agriculture & Fisheries. To provide coherence of
2 all government plans in agriculture and fisheries and to achieve efficiency in
3 the use of resources, all provincial governments are required to develop a
4 five-year strategic plan in agriculture and fisheries based on the framework
5 and principles provided by the Department of Agriculture (DA). The Strategic
6 Plan shall serve as the basis for the DA to provide short-term and long-term
7 assistance. The yearly program of work and budget shall be derived from the
8 strategic plan.

9
10 **ARTICLE IV**

11 **Funding for Extension Services**

12
13 *Sec. 18. Initial Appropriation.* – For the first year of implementation of this Act,
14 the amount of five billion pesos (PHP 5B) shall be appropriated out of the total
15 budget of the Dept of Agriculture (DA) for the personal services, operation
16 and capital outlay requirements of the Philippine Agriculture and Fisheries
17 Extension Agency (PAFEA).

18
19 The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) is hereby mandated to
20 include annually in the President’s program of expenditures for submission to
21 Congress and release an amount not less than five billion or one percent of
22 the gross value added in agriculture and fisheries, whichever is higher, for the
23 implementation of this Act.

24
25 The PAFEA is authorized to utilize part of its yearly appropriation to set up or
26 upgrade necessary facilities to improve the provision of national extension
27 services.

28
29 All assets, resources both human and financial of Agriculture Training Institute
30 (ATI), shall be transferred to the PAFEA.

31
32 All revenues generated out of the use of services, facilities and equipment
33 shall be utilized by the Agency to augment its maintenance and operating
34 expenditures subject to the approval of the Governing Board.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32

ARTICLE IV
Final Provisions

Sec. 19. *Oversight Committee.* – It is hereby created a Joint Congressional Oversight Committee to oversee the implementation of this Act for a period not exceeding five (5) years from its affectivity. The Committee shall be composed of the Chairmen of the Senate & House Committees on Agriculture and Food and two (2) members from each houses of Congress appointed respectively by the Senate President, and Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Sec. 20. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from the promulgation of this Act, the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of its provisions shall be formulated by the members of the Oversight Committee created under Section 19 hereof. The said rules and regulations shall be approved by the Secretary of the Dept of Agriculture (DA).

Sec. 21. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Sec. 22. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid and subsisting.

Sec. 23. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect thirty (30) days from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

APPROVED: