

SENATE

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. **249**

Submitted jointly by the Committees on Agriculture and Food; Local Government; and Finance on FEB 24 2009.

Re: Senate Bill No. **3100** (Prepared by the Committees).

Recommending its approval in substitution of Senate Bill No. 2331

Sponsor: Senator Legarda.

MR. PRESIDENT:

The Committees on Agriculture and Food; Local Government; and Finance to which were referred Senate Bill No. 2331, introduced by Senator Edgardo J. Angara, entitled:

**“AN ACT
PRESCRIBING THE STRENGTHENING OF THE NATIONAL EXTENSION
SYSTEM TO ACCELERATE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES
DEVELOPMENT, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES”;**

have considered the same and have the honor to report ~~it~~ back to the Senate with the recommendation that the attached bill, Senate Bill No. **3100**, prepared jointly by the Committees, entitled:

**“AN ACT
PRESCRIBING THE STRENGTHENING OF THE NATIONAL EXTENSION
SYSTEM TO ACCELERATE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES
DEVELOPMENT, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES”;**

be approved in substitution of Senate Bill No. 2331, with Senator Angara as author thereof.


Respectfully submitted,

Chairpersons:




LOREN B. LEGARDA

Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture and Food
Member, Committee on Local Government;
Member, Committee on Finance



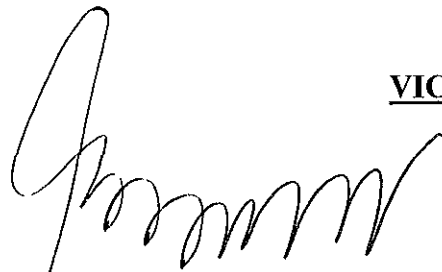
EDGARDO J. ANGARA
Chairperson, Committee on Finance
Member, Committee on Agriculture
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BENIGNO S. AQUINO III
Chairperson, Committee on Local
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Member, Committee on Finance

*May interpellate
and propose amendments!*

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Member, Committee on Agriculture and Food




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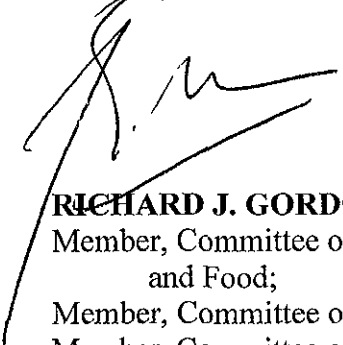
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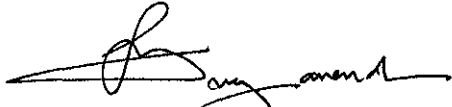


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M.A. MADRIGAL
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may amend



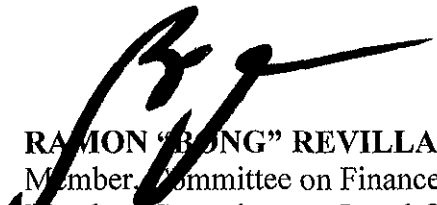
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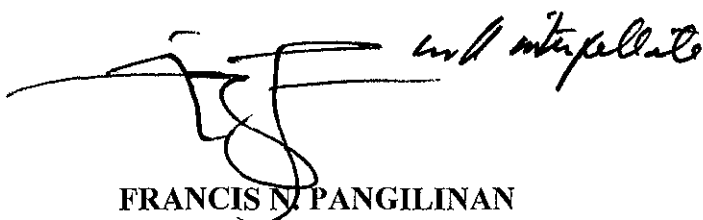


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PIA "COMPAÑERA" S. CAYETANO
Member, Finance



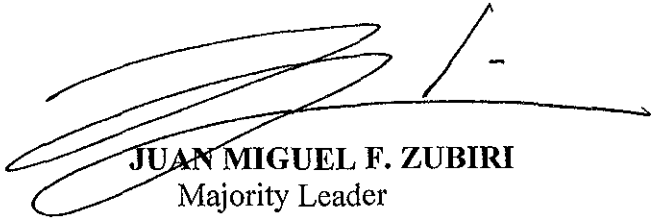
will interpellate

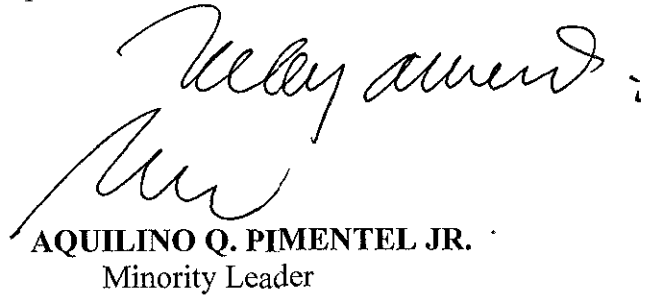
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Minority Leader

JUAN PONCE ENRILE
President
Senate of the Philippines
Pasay City

9 FEB 24 P4:11

SENATE

S.B. No **3100**

RECEIVED BY



(In substitution of Senate Bill No. 2331.)

Prepared by the Committees on Agriculture and Food; Local Government; and Finance
with Senator Angara as author thereof

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

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

ARTICLE I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1 Section 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Agriculture and Fisheries
2 Extension Act of 2009."

3 Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. - The goals of the national economy are a more
4 equitable distribution of opportunities, income and wealth; a sustained increase in the
5 amount of goods and services produced by the nation for the benefit of the people; and
6 an expanding productivity as the key to raising the quality of life for all, especially the
7 underprivileged.

8 The State shall promote industrialization and full employment based on sound
9 agricultural development and agrarian reform, through industries that make full and
10 efficient use of human and natural resources, and which are competitive in both
11 domestic and foreign markets. In pursuit of these goals, all sectors of the economy and
12 all regions of the country shall be given optimum opportunity to develop.

13 Thus, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to enable those who belong to
14 the agriculture and fisheries sector to participate and share in the fruits of development
15 and growth in a manner that utilizes the nation's resources in the most efficient and

1 sustainable way possible by establishing a more equitable access to assets, income,
2 basic and support services and infrastructure.

3 The State shall give priority to promote science, technology and human resource
4 development as essentials for national development and progress.

5 The State shall utilize research results through information, extension and
6 communication services. It shall support the development of a national extension
7 system that will help accelerate the transformation of agriculture and fisheries sectors of
8 the Country from a resource-based industry to a knowledge and technology-based and
9 market-oriented industry.

10 The State shall adopt the market approach in assisting the agriculture and
11 fisheries sector while recognizing the contribution of these sectors to food security,
12 environmental protection, and balanced urban and rural development, without
13 neglecting the welfare of the consumers, especially the lower income groups. The State
14 shall promote market-oriented policies in agricultural production to encourage farmers to
15 shift to more profitable crops.

16 The State shall empower the agriculture and fisheries sector to develop and
17 sustain themselves to meet present and future needs of the Country. Toward this end,
18 the State shall ensure the establishment and development of the agriculture and
19 fisheries extension system that increases and sustains its contributions to the
20 *achievement of the goals of agriculture modernization as mandated by Republic Act*
21 *8435: a) Poverty Alleviation and Social Equity; b) Food Security; c) Rational Use of*
22 *Resources and Sustainable Development; d) Global Competitiveness; and e) People*
23 *Empowerment.*

24 *Sec. 3. Definition of Terms. As used in this Act, the term:*

25 1. "Agriculturist" refers to a person who is a graduate of a bachelor's degree in
26 agriculture or any related course registered and licensed with the Professional
27 Regulation Commission or Civil Service Commission; who performs
28 communication, curriculum development, econometrics, statistical work,

- 1 training and extension works in agriculture production, trade, and processing
2 including crop and animal protection, food safety, agricultural and natural
3 resource economics, and marketing;
- 4 2. "Agricultural Engineer" refers to a person registered with the Professional
5 Regulation Commission or Civil Service Commission performing training and
6 extension work in agricultural and fisheries mechanization, irrigation,
7 drainage, soil and water conservation, agricultural buildings and structures,
8 agricultural processing and post harvest facilities;
- 9 3. "Catalytic Financing" - the provision of financial support to achieve excellence,
10 equity and increased investment by the local governments in the
11 implementation of agriculture and fisheries extension services towards the
12 achievement of national goals;
- 13 4. "Civil Society" - refers to the group of organizations whose uncoerced
14 collective action revolves around shared interests, purposes and values. Civil
15 societies are organizations composed of community groups, women's
16 organizations, faith-based organizations, professional associations, trade
17 unions, self-help groups, social movements, business associations, coalitions
18 and advocacy groups;
- 19 5. "Consumers" - are those that acquire goods or services for direct use or
20 ownership rather than for resale or use in production and manufacturing;
- 21 6. "Empowerment" - is the expansion of assets and capabilities of people to
22 participate in, negotiate with, influence, control and hold accountable
23 institutions that affect their lives; it involves providing authority, responsibility,
24 and information to people directly engaged on agriculture and fishery
25 production, primarily at the level of the farmers, fisherfolk and those engaged
26 in food and non-food production and processing, in order to give them
27 enhanced economics rights;

- 1 7. "Fisheries" - refers to all systems or networks of interrelated activities which
2 include the production, growing, harvesting, processing, marketing,
3 developing, conserving and managing of all aquatic and fisheries areas;
- 4 8. "Fisheries Technologist" refers to a person who is a graduate of a four year
5 course in Fisheries and registered and licensed with the Professional
6 Regulation Commission or Civil Service Commission performing training and
7 extension on fisheries, marine resources and aquaculture;
- 8 9. "Food Security" - refers to the policy objective, plan and strategy of meeting
9 the food requirements of the present and future generations, of Filipinos in
10 substantial quantity, ensuring the availability and affordability of safe and
11 nutritious food to all, either through local production or importation, or both,
12 based on the country's existing and potential resource endowment and
13 related production advantages, and consistent with the overall national
14 development objectives and policies;
- 15 10. "Formula grants" - these are national government financial transfers to the
16 local governments to support the regular expenditures in the provision of
17 Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Services (AFES) based on a formula that
18 takes into consideration, among others, the level of economic development of
19 a municipality or a province;
- 20 11. "Gross Value Added in Agriculture" - refers to the total value, excluding the
21 value of non-agricultural or fisheries intermediate inputs, of goods and
22 services contributed by the agricultural and fisheries sectors;
- 23 12. "Knowledge Management" - is a systematic approach which invents,
24 understands, shares, creates and utilizes knowledge in order to create values
25 such as customer's value, employee's value, stockholder's value, business
26 partner's value and social value to achieve the vision and goal of the
27 organization;

1 13. "Partnership" - a relationship between and among agencies that is
2 characterized by mutual cooperation and responsibility towards the
3 achievement of shared goals;

4 14. "Private sector" - the part of a nation's economy that is not owned and
5 managed by the government;

6 15. "Producer" - one that produces, especially a person or organization, that
7 produces goods or services for sale;

8 16. "RBOs" - are rural based organizations or people's organizations composed
9 of various sectors of the rural community such as farmers, fisherfolk, growers,
10 seed producers, women, and youth;

11 17. "Targeted financial transfer" - is a financial support provided by the national
12 government to the LGUs in support of national goals or programs;

13 18. "Value chain" - is a process from seed to shelf or from the producers to the
14 consumers, showing activities and interventions off/for a chosen
15 commodity/ties based on understanding the needs for such interventions;

16 19. "Veterinarian" refers to a person registered with the Professional Regulation
17 Commission performing professional services related to the practice of
18 veterinary medicine including training and extension on disease prevention
19 control and animal health.

20 Sec. 4. Statement of Goals. - Agricultural extension is a policy instrument for
21 empowering individuals and organizations; public agriculture extension shall contribute
22 towards the achievement of the national goals of agriculture development.

23 Sec. 5. Statement of Objectives. - Agriculture and fisheries extension shall
24 contribute to the following objectives:

25 a) To enhance the economic rights of Producers, especially the poor, to use the
26 most appropriate technologies they feel will give them the best profit and to choose the
27 most affordable loans in producing the quality and quantity of products and to sell their
28 products freely; Traders, to move goods in the expectation of profits unconstrained by

1 serious lack of knowledge and information; and Consumers, to buy safe and nutritious
2 foods at the lowest prices possible.

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

5 c) To help create an enabling environment that strengthens the linkage between
6 knowledge generation and knowledge use and encourages increased investment in
7 agriculture extension by the private sector, civil society, and Local Governments.

8 Sec. 6. Clients. - The clients of Philippine agricultural and fisheries extension
9 system are the producers (farmers, fisherfolk, agricultural processors), traders, and
10 consumers along the value chain. Public extension shall focus on the delivery of public
11 goods. The priority clients shall be the economically and socially disadvantaged groups
12 in agriculture and fisheries. Local Government Units shall put primary attention to these
13 groups in the provision of extension services through formula grants and targeted and
14 catalytic financing of National Government Agencies.

15 **ARTICLE II Structure and Organization**

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

23 The Philippine Agricultural and Fisheries Extension Agency (PAFEA), shall
24 coordinate all government extension programs in agriculture and fisheries.

25 Sec. 8. Powers and Functions.

26 a) Provide direction in the development of national extension policies in
27 agriculture and fisheries;

1 b) Orchestrate the development of extension strategic plan including its financing
2 in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management and other
3 stakeholders;

4 c) Develop and implement national policies and programs aimed at the
5 continuous improvement of the quality of extension methods, products, and services
6 towards a more efficient and client-responsive national agriculture and fisheries
7 knowledge management system;

8 d) Develop a system towards the management of the country's extension
9 resources for agriculture and fisheries to ensure a sustainable, participatory and
10 efficient system of funding for information, education, and communication materials
11 (IEC) and to achieve optimal efficiency along the value chain;

12 e) Provide leadership in the development and implementation of the National
13 Agriculture & Fisheries Knowledge Network (NAFKN) in agriculture and fisheries of the
14 Department through a system of partnerships that may include, but not be limited to,
15 the (Local Government Units) LGUs, the regional development council (RDC), the
16 Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Council (RAFCs), the academe especially the SUCs
17 of agriculture and fisheries, the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), producers, rural
18 based organizations (RBO)s and the private sector;

19 f) Provide national leadership in consultation with agriculture and fisheries
20 councils (AFCs), in developing extension partnerships towards increased investment
21 and private sector participation;

22 g) Team up with state universities and colleges (SUCs) of agriculture and fisheries
23 as key partners in the implementation of the national programs specially in the areas of
24 extension innovations, national training, and monitoring and evaluation of extension
25 institutions and programs;

26 h) Provide leadership in developing and implementing a national system of
27 strengthening institutional extension capacities at all levels of implementation; and

1 i) In coordination with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), the
2 Local Government Units, The Department of Local governments, and other
3 stakeholders, the PAFEA shall set up a review mechanism for all agriculture and
4 fisheries extension programs and budgets of national agencies to determine cost-
5 effectiveness of operations and potential impacts to national goals.

6 Sec. 9. Structure of PAFEA. - It shall be headed by a Director General (DG) with
7 a rank of Assistant Secretary to be assisted by two Deputy Director Generals (DDG)
8 and they shall be appointed by the President upon recommendation of the Secretary of
9 Agriculture from a list submitted by an independent Search Committee organized and
10 based on the qualification standards set by the Council for Extension Research
11 Development in Agriculture and Fisheries (CERDAF) . They shall have a fixed tenure of
12 six (6) years and may be re-appointed for an additional term of four (4) years based on
13 very satisfactory performance.

14 Sec. 10. The Council for Extension Research Development in Agriculture and
15 Fisheries (CERDAF) - The Council for Extension Research Development in Agriculture
16 and Fisheries (CERDAF) is hereby strengthened. It shall ensure that the agriculture and
17 fisheries research, development and extension policies and programs of the
18 Department are consistent with national policies and priorities.

19 a) Functions and duties of the Council for Extension Research
20 Development in Agriculture and Fisheries (CERDAF).

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

23 (2) Enhance coordination and linkage of government institutions involved in
24 agriculture and fisheries research, development and extension;

25 (3) Strengthen the participation of various stakeholders, especially the civil society,
26 local government units, and private sector in the development of National Research
27 Development and Extension (NRDE) agenda and programs;

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

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

6 Sec. 11. Composition of the Council for Extension Research Development in
7 Agriculture and Fisheries (CERDAF). The Undersecretary for Policy and Planning of
8 the DA shall be the Chair of the Council. There shall be a Vice Chair to be elected from
9 among the other members of the Board. The Executive Director of the Philippine
10 Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Agency (PAFEA) and the Director of the Bureau of
11 Agriculture Research (BAR) shall be *ex officio* members and the Chair shall appoint the
12 Executive Director of PAFEA as Secretary of the Council. The CERDAF shall have the
13 following as members:

14 (1) Designated Undersecretaries for Policy & Planning of the following
15 Departments:

- 16 i. Department of Science and Technology;
- 17 ii. Department of Environment and Natural Resources;
- 18 iii. Department of Agrarian Reform;

19 (2) Presidents of the following LGU organizations:

- 20 i. League of Provinces;
- 21 ii. Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP);

22 (3) Four (4) CSO representatives from the rural youth, rural women, and farmer,
23 and fisherfolk sectors as identified and selected by the Department of
24 Agriculture;

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

27 (5) Representatives from scientific/professional organizations/societies;

1 (6) One representative each from the following national professional
2 organizations: i) agriculturists; ii) agricultural engineers; iii) fishery technologists
3 and iv) veterinarians.

4 Sec. 12. Offices under the PAFEA. - To carry out the functions of the Agency,
5 PAFEA shall have four technical offices as follows: (1) Policy Development; (2)
6 Extension Innovations & National Training; (3) Knowledge Products & Services
7 Development; and (4) Extension Governance & Partnerships.

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

16 **ARTICLE III Organization of the Local Government Extension Services**

17 Sec. 13. Province as the LGU Unit of Operation for Agriculture & Fisheries
18 Extension. - To achieve efficiency and to provide more responsive services, the
19 administrative unit for the planning and implementation of the extension services at the
20 level of Local Government Units is the province through a Provincial Agriculture and
21 Fisheries Extension Services under the Office of the Governor. The Provincial
22 Agriculture and Extension Services shall be headed by a technically-qualified career
23 Provincial Agriculturist (PA). The PAs shall be appointed by the Director General of
24 PAFEA chosen from three qualified nominees submitted by the Governor. Its staff shall
25 be composed of technically qualified career agriculturists, economists, statisticians,
26 agricultural engineers, fishery technologists and veterinarians appointed by the
27 Provincial Governor.

1 Sec. 14. Extension Personnel in the Municipalities. - All municipal and non-
2 chartered agriculture and fisheries extension personnel are hereby transferred to the
3 province, and they shall be appointed by Governor and become employees of the
4 provincial government upon the effectivity of this Act. However, they will continue to
5 serve municipalities and non-chartered cities as detailed employees of the province
6 based on a rationalized organizational structure endorsed by the LGUs and approved
7 by the PAFEA and the DBM. The Municipal Agriculture and Extension Services shall be
8 headed by a technically-qualified career Municipal Agriculturist Officer (MAO) who shall
9 be appointed by the Director General of PAFEA chosen from three qualified nominees
10 submitted by the Governor.

11 Sec. 15. Salaries and Wages of Extension Personnel. - The salaries and wages
12 of the agriculture and fisheries technical extension personnel shall be paid by the
13 National Government through an annual grant-in-aid to be paid out of the regular
14 appropriation of the PAFEA of the Department of Agriculture; *Provided, however, that*
15 during the first year of the effectivity of this Act, the local government concerned shall
16 reallocate its savings from the personal services for agricultural personnel to its
17 agriculture and fisheries operations; *Provided, further, that* every year thereafter, the
18 concerned LGU shall appropriate the equivalent funds as the minimum amount for its
19 agricultural and fisheries operation or counterparts to national grants-in-aid in
20 agriculture and fisheries, without prejudice to the provision of additional funds that may
21 be allocated by the LGUs for this purpose. The salaries and wages of technical
22 extension personnel shall be standardized and equal to that of comparable positions of
23 national employees without prejudice to the provision of additional staff benefits by
24 concerned LGUs where finances warrant. The provision of grants in aid to pay for the
25 salaries and wages of the technical personnel of the LGU extension services shall be
26 subject to external review and evaluation every five years to determine its impact to the
27 quality of services and its cost-effectiveness. A copy of the report shall be provided to

1 Congress and serve as the basis for the continuation or modification of the grants-in-
2 aid.

3 Sec. 16. Professionalization of Extension Services. The PAFEA, in coordination
4 with the Civil Service Commission and subject to the approval of the CERDAF, shall
5 develop qualification standards beyond the minimum set by the Civil Service
6 Commission for the various managerial, technical, and non-technical positions of the
7 extension services of the country including that of all local government units. The
8 PAFEA shall also develop a career path of all technical extension personnel that will
9 allow them regardless of assignment or location in government, to move vertically in the
10 promotion system. Managerial positions shall be open to all qualified personnel
11 regardless of geographic or agency assignment. Towards this end, the PAFEA shall
12 issue guidelines for the creation of a merit promotion boards for each extension agency
13 that will include representatives of the SUCs of agriculture and fisheries.

14 Sec. 17. Structure of the Provincial Extension Services. - The provincial
15 agriculture and fisheries extension services shall organize and structure its services
16 based on the agricultural and extension needs of the province and on the standards set
17 by the PAFEA. The technical positions of the PAFEA, and the Provincial Extension
18 Services shall be rationalized to provide the required number of positions for
19 agriculturists, communication and curriculum specialists, economists, agricultural
20 engineers, fishery technologists and veterinarians.

21 Sec. 18. LGU Livestock Production Services. In recognition of the need to
22 provide an integrated extension approach to total farm development, the LGU livestock
23 production Services shall be part and parcel of the Provincial Agricultural Office (PAO).
24 In cases where these functions were transferred to the Provincial Veterinary Services,
25 they shall be returned and integrated to the rest of the PAO services.

26 Section 19. Strategic Plan in Agriculture & Fisheries. To provide coherence of all
27 government plans in agriculture and fisheries and to achieve efficiency in the use of
28 resources, all provincial governments are required to develop a five-year strategic plan

1 in agriculture and fisheries based on the framework and principles provided by the
2 Department of Agriculture (DA). The Strategic Plan shall serve as the basis for the DA
3 to provide short-term and long-term assistance. The yearly program of work and budget
4 shall be derived from the strategic plan.

5 **ARTICLE IV Funding for Extension Services**

6 Sec. 20. Initial Appropriation. - For the first year of implementation of this Act, the
7 amount of five billion pesos (PHP 5,000,000,000.00) shall be appropriated out of the
8 total budget of the Dept of Agriculture (DA) for personal services, grants-in-aid to the
9 LGUs, operation and capital outlay requirements of the Philippine Agriculture and
10 Fisheries Extension Agency (PAFEA).

11 The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) is hereby mandated to
12 include annually in the President's program of expenditures for submission to Congress
13 and release an amount not less than five billion pesos (PHP 5,000,000,000.00) or one
14 percent of the gross value added in agriculture and fisheries, whichever is higher, for
15 the implementation of this Act.

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

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

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

23 **ARTICLE IV Final Provisions**

24 Sec. 21. Oversight Committee. The Congressional Oversight Committee for
25 Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization shall oversee the implementation of this Act for
26 a period not exceeding five (5) years from its effectivity.

27 Sec. 22. Implementing Rules and Regulations. -Within ninety (90) days from the
28 effectivity of this Act, the implementing rules and regulations shall be formulated by the

1 Department of Agriculture in coordination with the members of the Congressional
2 Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization. The said rules and
3 regulations shall be submitted by the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA) to
4 the Committee of Agriculture of both Houses of Congress.

5 Sec. 23. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and
6 regulations, issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or
7 amended accordingly.

8 Sec. 24. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or
9 unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid and
10 subsisting.

11 Sec. 25. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect thirty (30) days from the
12 date of its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least in two (2) national newspapers
13 of general circulation.

14 APPROVED,
15