

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

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SENATE
S.B. No. **995**

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Introduced by Senator JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The National Food Authority (NFA) is one of the critical agencies of the government tasked to ensure continuous and adequate food supply and to maintain prices of food at an affordable level for the common people.

One of the recurring problems of the nation is rice shortage. Thus, NFA was established as a successor to the National Grains Authority and the National Rice Corporation to enable government to regulate the activities of rice traders as well as to regulate the cost and price of rice.

As presently constituted, the NFA Council does not include any representative from the farmers as well as the private sector, representing the interests of rice consumers and entrepreneurs engaged in rice production.

Under Presidential Decree No. 4 issued on September 26, 1972, entitled, "Providing for the Development of the Rice and Corn Industry and Creating for this purpose the National Grains Authority", a representative from the consuming sector and traders were included in the composition of the National Grains Industry Development Council. Subsequently, with the issuance of Presidential Decree No. 1485 on June 11, 1978, further amending certain provisions of the National Grains Industry Development Act, representation from the rice producers and rice and corn millers and traders was deleted. On January 14, 1981, Presidential Decree No. 1770, entitled, "Reconstituting the National Grains Authority to the National Food Authority, Broadening its Functions and Powers and for the other purposes" was issued which, likewise, deleted representation from the following sectors, namely, the consuming sector and the representatives from the rice producers and rice and corn millers and traders.

It is necessary to include farmers and private sector in the Council to assist in the formulation of policies and strategies to maintain stable rice supply at affordable prices

and likewise in the development of pricing policies, the employment of rice production technology as well as in the implementation of import and export mechanism sensitive to the problems and concern of rice growers and rice consumers. Likewise, the representation of these particular sectors will enable the Council to reduce bureaucratic practices because they are aware of the problem on a first hand basis and have the expertise, experience as well as the desire for immediate results to cut through red tape.

This bill seeks to achieve above mentioned objectives by including representatives from the farmers and the private sector in the NFA Council.



JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator

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

04 JUN 30 10:20

SENATE
S.B. No. 995

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Introduced by Senator JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

AN ACT

**PROVIDING FOR THE INCLUSION OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE PRIVATE
SECTOR AND FARMERS ORGANIZATION IN THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
COUNCIL AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1770, AS
AMENDED AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. Section 6 of P.D. No. 1770 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 6. – Composition of the National Food Authority Council –

The Council shall be composed of the following:

[The Minister of Human Settlements]

- A) The Administrator, National Food Authority;
- B) The [Minister] SECRETARY of Agriculture;
- C) The [Minister] SECRETARY of Finance;
- D) The [Minister] SECRETARY of Trade and Industry;

[The Minister of Trade]

- E) The Governor, Central Bank of the Philippines;
- F) The Chairman, Development Bank of the Philippines;
- G) A Representative of the Office of the President;
- H) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE CONSUMING SECTOR;
- I) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM A LEGITIMATE FARMERS ORGANIZATION

The Chairman shall be the [Minister of Human Settlements] SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE and the Vice-Chairman shall be the Administrator of the National Food Authority. The Administrator of the National Food Authority shall be appointed by the President of Republic of the Philippines.

THE REPRESENTATIVE OF ANY LEGITIMATE FARMERS ORGANIZATION SHALL BE AT LEAST THIRTY-FIVE (35) YEARS OF AGE, WITH SUFFICIENT EXPERIENCE IN FARMING, OR PROVEN HONESTY, INTEGRITY, RECOGNIZED COMPETENCE, AND HAS FAMILIARITY OF RICE PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGIES. THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CONSUMING SECTOR SHALL BE A FILIPINO CITIZEN, AT LEAST THIRTY-FIVE (35) YEARS OF AGE, OF PROVEN HONESTY, INTEGRITY, AND RECOGNIZED BY THE PHILIPPINES TO HOLD OFFICE FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS UNLESS SOONER REMOVED FOR CAUSE OR UNTIL THEIR SUCCESSORS SHALL HAVE BEEN QUALIFIED AND APPOINTED.

The Council shall meet regularly at least once a month on any date to be determined by the Chairman. Provided: That the Chairman may convene special meetings to discuss urgent matters. The Council Members shall be entitled to per diem of not less than [EIGHT HUNDRED PESOS (P800.00)] TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P2,500.00) for each meeting actually attended by them and such other remuneration as may be determined by the Council.

The management of the Authority shall be vested in an Administrator who shall have the rank of a [Minister] SECRETARY and shall be assisted by two (2) Deputy Administrators and as many Assistant Administrators as may be determined by the Council and whose respective qualifications shall be the same as those provided for in the said Decree.

The Administrator shall receive a compensation, to be determined by the Council in accordance with provisions of pertinent compensation law.

SECTION 2. Such sum as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 3. All existing laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, rules and regulations of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,