

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

16 JUL 19 P 2:34

SENATE

S. No. 530

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" Trillanes IV

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE YOUNG FARMERS' PROGRAM, PROVIDING FUNDS
THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Being an agricultural country, it is sad to note that the Philippines' agriculture and fisheries sector are among those which have been most neglected. We still import most of our food requirements because we are unable to raise enough food for our people. As a result there is very little investment in the agricultural and fisheries sectors. For every peso loan extended in the country, only a centavo goes to agriculture. To make matters worse, the Filipino farmers have grown old. At 67 years, they are older than all of their Asian counterparts and produce less than the Vietnamese, Thai, and Chinese farmers.

The current situation in the agriculture and fisheries sector has likewise affected our young graduates. More agriculture and fisheries graduates choose to concentrate on other fields. They would rather go to the cities or go abroad to work as domestic helpers or caregivers after four (4) years of college. But they cannot be blamed for this because aside from an educational system that promotes employment rather than entrepreneurship, they find little or no prospects in agriculture or fisheries.

Therefore, this bill aims to further strengthen the active participation of the Filipino youth in agricultural productivity by institutionalizing the Young Farmers Program (YFP). The YFP intends to equip the youth with the necessary technical and entrepreneurial skills, to provide them production and marketing support, and to aid them in capital formation with the hope that they may contribute to food security, generate employment in the countryside and energize the agri-fisheries sector to meet the challenges of globalization.

This proposed legislative measure further intends to effectively instill to the Filipino youth the needed dedication and commitment to be effective partners in nation-building in order to attain

sustainable development in the agriculture and fisheries sectors, which will help the country's economic recovery program.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly requested.


ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV
Senator

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

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SECTION 1. Title. - This Act shall be known as the *"Young Farmers Program Act of 2016."*

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to instil in the Filipino youth the necessary dedication and commitment to be effective and self-sustaining partners for the further productivity and development of the country's agricultural and fisheries sector through entrepreneurship and agribusiness.

SEC. 3. Statement of Objectives. - This Act shall have the following objectives:

- a. To encourage young agriculture and fisheries graduates to go into agribusiness and nurture them to become entrepreneurs and strong partners in nation-building;
- b. To prevent the departure of young farmers for urban centers by generating more employment opportunities in the countryside;
- c. To enlist young and competent entrepreneurs in enhancing the competitiveness of local agriculture and fisheries;
- d. To demonstrate to young graduates the high income potential in agribusiness thru value-adding activities; and
- e. To underscore to the youth their important role in economic development.

SEC. 4. Definition of Terms. - The following terms shall be defined under this Act:

- a. "Program" refers to the Young Farmers Program or YFP as established under this Act;

- 1 b. "Department" refers to the Department of Agriculture;
2
3 c. "Youth" refers to individuals 18 to 35 years old at the start of the Program or who are
4 born after the approval of this Act: *Provided*, That they are college graduates or
5 individuals with at least two (2) years of college education or have completed a
6 vocational course and are currently engaged in an agribusiness or agriculture-related
7 enterprise or have, at least, three (3) years of experience in agribusiness;
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9 d. "Young Fanner Entrepreneur" or "YFE" refers to an individual 18 to 35 years old, a
10 graduate of any Agriculture, Fisheries, or Agribusiness course and presently
11 unemployed, or a college graduate of any course but presently engaged in an
12 agriculture or fisheries enterprise, who shall submit a project proposal or feasibility study
13 for possible funding. Upon approval of his/her project, the YFE shall undergo training to
14 be conducted by the Department, in coordination with state colleges and universities
15 (SCUs), after which he/she shall be expected to implement his project; and
16
17 e. "Young Farmer Volunteer" or "YFV" refers to an individual 18 to 35 years old, a
18 graduate of any Agriculture, Fisheries, or Agribusiness course who shall be chosen from
19 the SCUs to represent their respective regions. The YFV shall undergo training to be
20 conducted by the Department, in coordination with state colleges and universities
21 (SCUs), after which he/she shall be deployed to his/her region to undertake
22 advocacy activities and monitor the YFEs in his/her region;

23 **SEC. 5. Implementation of the Program.** - An Executive Committee is hereby created to
24 implement the Young Farmers Program (YFP) to be composed of representatives from the
25 National Agriculture and Fishery Council (NAFC), the Agricultural Fishery Council Foundation
26 of the Philippines, Inc. (AFCFPI), the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), Quedancor and the
27 Congressional Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization (COCAFAM).
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29 The YFP Executive Committee shall oversee and monitor the implementation of the
30 Program. It shall likewise promulgate rules and regulations to implement the Program and adopt
31 procedures and guidelines to effectively carry out the Program.
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33 **SEC. 6. Role of LGUs.** - The LGUs shall endeavor to support the Program through
34 additional counterpart funding assistance, production, processing, and technical and marketing
35 support.
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37 **SEC. 7. Role of the SCUs.** - The SCUs shall assist the YFEs in preparation of project
38 proposals and feasibility studies. They may endorse projects to the YFP Executive Committee.
39 They shall likewise provide technical support to the YFEs and YFVs.
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41 **SEC. 8. Funding.** - The sum of Fifty million pesos (Php 50,000,000.00) is hereby
42 appropriated out of any savings or unexpended balance in the National Treasury not otherwise,
43 appropriated, to cover the amounts needed for the initial year of implementation. Thereafter,

1 such amount as shall be needed for the Program shall be included in the budget of the
2 Department of Agriculture.

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4 **SEC. 9. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect thirty (30) days after its publication in the
5 Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,