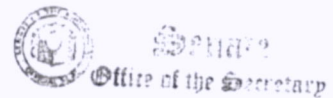


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )



'18 APR 18 P5:56

SENATE

S. No. 1782

RECEIVED BY

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Introduced by Senator Ralph G. Recto

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AN ACT  
DESIGNATING THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AS  
CHAIRPERSON OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE NATIONAL FOOD  
AUTHORITY

Explanatory Note

The National Grains Authority was created under Presidential Decree (PD) No. 4, s. 1972 and became the National Food Authority (NFA) through PD No. 1770, s. 1981. Its mandate is to ensure national food security and stabilize supply and prices of staple cereals both in the farm and consumer levels. By virtue of Executive Order (EO) No. 398, s. 1997, NFA shall intervene in the stabilization of sugar prices, including the procurement of sugar when necessary. Furthermore, EO No. 22, s. 1998 authorized NFA to include in its scope the marketing operation of other basic food items.

In 2014, EO No. 165 transferred the NFA together with National Irrigation Administration, Philippine Coconut Authority, and Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority to the Office of the President. Furthermore, Memorandum Order No. 70, s. 2014 provided oversight responsibilities over the aforesaid agencies to the Presidential Assistant for Food Security and Agricultural Modernization (OPAFSAM). Pursuant to EO No. 1, s. 2016, NFA, together with eleven (11) other agencies from OPAFSAM, were subsequently transferred to the Office of the Cabinet Secretary.

Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel Piñol, who, back in 2016 wanted NFA along with the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) and Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) to be reintegrated back to the DA, said that there was “absolutely no sense in separating the NFA, NIA, FPA and PCA from the DA.”<sup>1</sup> What is worse is that the Secretary of Agriculture is not even part of the current NFA governing board.

Thus, this bill seeks to correct the current composition of the NFA governing board by mandating the Secretary of Agriculture to sit as its *ex-officio* Chairperson to ensure the coordination and harmonization of NFA’s programs and policies to the agriculture industry’s overall strategic development.

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<sup>1</sup> Manila Times (July 6, 2016). *Good—NIA, NFA and PCA again under Agriculture Department*. Information retrieved from <http://www.manilatimes.net/good-nia-nfa-and-pca-again-under-agriculture-department/272148/> on April 5, 2018.

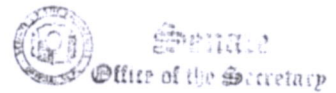
In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



**RALPH G. RECTO**

*/mabm*

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

1           **SECTION 1.** Section 6 of Presidential Decree No. 1770, s. 1981 is hereby amended to  
2 read as follows:

3  
4           “**Section 6. Composition of the National Food Authority Council.** - The Council  
5 shall be composed of the following:

6  
7           [The Minister of Human Settlements]

8           The Administrator, National Food Authority

9           The [Minister] **SECRETARY** of Agriculture

10          The [Minister] **SECRETARY** of Finance

11          The [Minister] **SECRETARY** of **TRADE AND** Industry

12          [The Minister of Trade]

13          **THE SECRETARY OF NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND**  
14          **DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

15          **THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

16          The Governor, [Central Bank of the Philippines] **BANGKO SENTRAL NG**

17          **PILIPINAS**

18          The [Chairman] **CHAIRPERSON**, Development Bank of the Philippines

19          [The President, Philippine National Bank]

20          The President, Land Bank of the Philippines

21          A Representative of the Office of the President

22          **A FARMER SECTOR REPRESENTATIVE**

23  
24          The [Chairman] **CHAIRPERSON** shall be the [Minister of Human Settlements]  
25          **SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE** and the Vice-[Chairman] **CHAIRPERSON**  
26          shall be the Administrator of the National Food Authority. The Administrator of the  
27          National Food Authority shall be appointed by the President of the Republic of the  
28          Philippines.

29  
30          x x x.”

31  
32          **SEC. 2. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations which are  
33 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

34           **SEC. 3. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication  
35 in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation or in the Official Gazette.

*Approved.*