


13th CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES }
Second Regular Session

6 JUL -8

RECEIVED BY: 

SENATE

S. No. 2401

INTRODUCED BY HON. MANNY VILLAR


EXPLANATORY NOTE

The bill provides for the creation of a farmers' consultative commission.

The Philippines is a primary producer and exporter of rice and corn, thus gaining for the country the title "Asia's Bread Basket." At present however, with the serious rice crisis, the government has resorted to importing metric tons of rice from other neighboring countries. The problem will remain and is expected to worsen year after year, with rice farmers as the biggest losers in this crisis. Unless they receive help to produce and market their palay more efficiently, they will remain marginalized.


Thus, it will be best that the Department of Agriculture, the National Food Authority, together with other agencies come up with a clearly defined policy on the grain procurement program.

In view of the foregoing consideration and in order to save our country from a worsening rice crisis, approval of this bill is sincerely sought.


MANNY VILLAR

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**AN ACT
CREATING THE FARMERS' CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION,
PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES
AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "Farmers' Consultative Commission Act of 2006."

SECTION 2. It shall be the policy of the state to promote and accelerate the growth and development for the grain industry to afford greatest benefit to all those directly or indirectly affected by or involved in such industry. For this purpose, there is hereby created the "Farmers' Consultative Commission hereinafter referred to as the Commission.

SECTION 3. The Commission shall have the general objective of improving, through research, consultation, and extension, the production of the grains in the country. Specifically the objectives of the Commission are as follows:

- (a) To coordinate the planning, execution, evaluation or research, development, consultation and extension of activities on the different aspects of grain production in various agro-climatic environments of the country;

- (b) To identify, verify, pilot, package and transfer economically viable technologies to the improvement of the grain industry in the country;
- (c) To establish and strengthen the linkages with national and international agencies/institutes including organizations which can help in the development and improvement of the grain industry;
- (d) To develop a strategy of generating funds from national and international sources to support various research development and extension activities in the grain industry.
- (e) To hold regular consultative meetings with various sectors directly or indirectly involved in the industry.

SECTION 4. The Commission shall be composed of four (4) Commissioners to be appointed by the President of the Philippines, from a list of nominees from the Department of Agriculture, Department of Agrarian Reform, and the private sector.

SECTION 5. The Commission may determine the rules of its proceedings, elect its own chairman, and punish its members for disorderly behavior.

SECTION 6. The Commissioner shall receive an honorarium of Sixty Thousand Pesos (P60,000.00) annually, they shall also be entitled to per diems and travel allowances for every attendance in meetings. The Chairman shall receive no extra compensation.

SECTION 7. The Commission shall ensure that all resolutions or drafts presented directly to it during any of its hearings or deliberations.

SECTION 8. The Commission may also accept resolutions or drafts presented directly to it during any of its hearings or deliberations.

SECTION 9. The amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be charged to the appropriations for the Department of

Agriculture. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 10. All laws, rules and regulations or parts thereof consistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 11. This Act shall take fifteen (15) days following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,