

**FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)**

8 JAN 30 2014

**SENATE
S. NO. 2037**

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Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

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. Ironically, while about seventy percent (70%) of our people are engaged in agriculture, only twenty percent (20%) of the sector contributes to our gross domestic product (GDP).

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. Moreover, the Filipino farmers resist the application of modern technology relying instead on outmoded and outdated traditional farming methods.

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 early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.


ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV
Senator

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

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

1 **SECTION 1. Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Young Farmers Program Act of
2 2008.”

3
4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to instill in
5 the Filipino youth the necessary dedication and commitment to be effective and self-sustaining
6 partners for the further productivity and development of the country’s agricultural and fisheries
7 sector through entrepreneurship and agribusiness.

8
9 **SEC. 3. Statement of Objectives.** – This Act shall have the following objectives:

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

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

SEC. 5. Implementation of the Program. – An Executive Committee is hereby created to implement the Young Farmers Program (YFP) to be composed of representatives from the National Agriculture and Fishery Council (NAFC), the Agricultural Fishery Council Foundation

1 of the Philippines, Inc. (AFCFPI), the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), Quedancor and the
2 Congressional Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization (COCAFAM).

3 The YFP Executive Committee shall oversee and monitor the implementation of the
4 Program. It shall likewise promulgate rules and regulations to implement the Program and adopt
5 procedures and guidelines to effectively carry out the Program.

6
7 **SEC. 6. *Role of LGUs.*** – The LGUs shall endeavor to support the Program through
8 additional counterpart funding assistance, production, processing, and technical and marketing
9 support.

10
11 **SEC. 7. *Role of the SCUs.*** – The SCUs shall assist the YFEs in preparation of project
12 proposals and feasibility studies. They may endorse projects to the YFP Executive Committee.
13 They shall likewise provide technical support to the YFEs and YFVs.

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15 **SEC. 8. *Funding.*** – The sum of Fifty million pesos (P50, 000, 000) is hereby
16 appropriated out of any savings or unexpended balance in the National Treasury not otherwise
17 appropriated, to cover the amounts needed for the initial year of implementation. Thereafter,
18 such amount as shall be needed for the Program shall be included in the budget of the
19 Department of Agriculture.

20
21 **SEC. 9. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect thirty (30) days after its publication in the
22 *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,