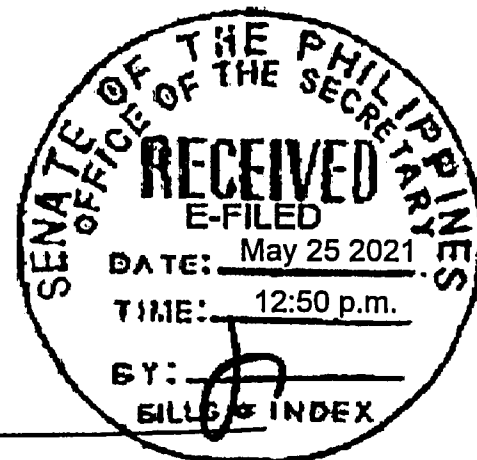


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

SENATE

S.B. No. 2231



INTRODUCED BY SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS

**AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE FILIPINO YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN AGRICULTURE AND
ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to the Philippine Statistics Authority, about 2.4 million Filipinos are currently unemployed on the month of July 2018, with 49% of it comprised by the youth. 74% of the given figure is comprised of individuals aged 15-30 years old. Agriculture had a 32% share in the total employment, according to the Philippine Statistics. The total employment comprises 44.1 million people of which 25.2% comprises the agricultural employment. But the challenges concerning agriculture are that fishermen and farmers had the highest poverty incidence among the country's basic sectors, according to the National Statistical Office. Average age of farmers in the Philippines is 57. In the Philippine setting, new generations of Filipinos refuse to go farming, and that is a threat to food security. More so, in many countries of Asia, the skills of the Filipino youth in rural areas are not fully harnessed for the agricultural industry. As a result, traditional farming methods are gradually fading as a practice in rural communities. Other national, local governments and international agencies often overlook the youth's potentials. Most rural youth are unemployed, underemployed, or forced to work in urban communities.

Making farming more profitable is the first step to attract younger people to the agricultural sector. Viable ventures should be established into the production of high-value crops that has local following or have export potential in raw or processed forms like coffee, cacao, mango, cassava, palm, and rubber. In preparing the youth to the agricultural sector, the current curriculum must improve and emphasize in agriculture, food technologies production, biotechnology and chemistry, economics, international trade and enterprise.

Entrepreneurship is often perceived as a driver for growth and job creation as well as means to make economies more competitive and innovative. However, supporting entrepreneurship goes beyond simply helping entrepreneurs or would-be entrepreneurs, and providing administrative and financial conditions conducive to business creation. It also allows spurring entrepreneurial spirit throughout society, in particular among the youth, stimulating their creativity, initiative, and sense of responsibility as well as providing the skills and knowledge needed to set up and run a business. Hence, education and training are vital for changing cultures and igniting entrepreneurial mindsets at an early age.

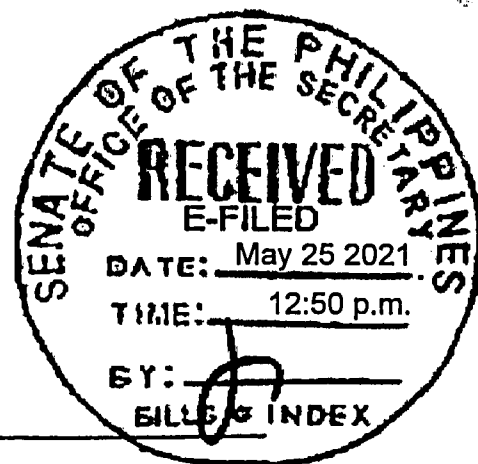
In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

Risa Montiveros
RISA HONTIVEROS
Senator

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

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**AN ACT
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ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

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

- 1 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Young Agripreneurs Act of
2 2021.”
- 3 Sec. 2. *Coverage.* – This Act shall apply to all provinces, cities and municipalities.
- 4 Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall be
5 defined as follows:
- 6 a) Youth – as defined in Republic Act 8044, refer to citizens who are within
7 the ages 15 to 30 years old;
- 8 b) Provinces and Highly Urbanized Cities – a center providing trainings,
9 assistance, and opportunities; monitoring and evaluation programs,
10 projects, ad activities; and facilltating partnerships among stakeholders in
11 the promotion of youth involvement in agriculture; and
- 12 c) Agripreneur – one who organizes, manages, and assumes the risks of a
13 business or enterprise in agriculture.
- 14 Sec. 4. *Rationale.* – All provincial and city government are mandated to establish
15 Youth Agricultural Hubs that will help and guide the youth that will provide greater
16 opportunities and engage the youth in agriculture.
- 17 Sec. 5. *Creation of Youth Agricultural Hubs.* – The following agricultural hubs are
18 hereby established:
- 19 a) Provincial Government shall conduct an assessment to determine
20 placement of the Youth Agricultural Hubs in the provinces and highly
21 urbanized cities. Municipalities with sufficient funds have the discretion to
22 create their own Youth Agricultural Hubs subject to the provision of Sec. 9
23 hereof for the necessary funding.

1 b) Cities and municipalities shall encourage partnerships with different
2 government agencies and other stakeholders.

3 c) The Department of Agriculture regional offices shall perform oversight
4 functions and assign personnel to fulfill the functions of the Youth
5 Agricultural Hubs.

6 **Sec. 6. *Functions of the Youth Agricultural Hubs.*** – The Youth Agricultural Hubs
7 shall have the following functions:

8 a) Shall facilitate trainings for the youth focusing on agriculture, financial
9 literacy, entrepreneurship, and other related courses;

10 b) Shall be a venue for research farming extensions;

11 c) Shall coordinate and establish partnerships with government agencies,
12 LGUs, and non-government organizations, civil society, private sector,
13 among others;

14 d) Shall facilitate the request for additional financial assistance and referral to
15 appropriate funding agencies;

16 e) Shall monitor implementation and evaluate progress of the approved and
17 funded projects;

18 f) Shall prepare and submit progress reports of the approved and funded
19 projects to the LGUs; and

20 g) Shall organize programs, projects, and activities to further promote youth
21 engagement in agriculture.

22 **Sec. 7. *Youth Agripreneurship Trade Fair.*** – There shall be a series of youth
23 agripreneurship trade fairs showcasing the youth’s agricultural products.

24 a) Schedule:

25 i. Provincial Level every September;

26 ii. Regional Level every October; and

27 iii. National Level every November.

28 b) Events:

29 i. Project Pitching Competition;

30 ii. Awarding of Outstanding Youth-Led Agricultural Programs, Projects,
31 and Activities; and

32 iii. Other youth-related agricultural activities.

33 **Sec. 8. *Coordinating Agencies.*** –

34 a) Department of Agriculture

35 b) Department of Agrarian Reform

36 c) Department of Trade and Industry

- 1 d) Department of Science and Technology
- 2 e) Department of Interior and Local Government
- 3 f) Department of Social Welfare and Development (SLP)
- 4 g) Technical Educational Skills Development Authority
- 5 h) Department of Education
- 6 i) Commission on Higher Education
- 7 j) National Youth Commission
- 8 k) National Economic and Development Authority
- 9 l) Philippine Statistics Authority
- 10 m) National Commission on Indigenous People
- 11 n) National Council on Disability Affairs

12 **Sec. 9. *Appropriation.*** – The three percent (3%) of the Internal Revenue Allocation
13 (IRA) of the LGU concerned shall be appropriated for the Youth Agricultural Hubs and
14 may be increased as determined to be appropriate by the LGU.

15 **Sec. 10. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations,
16 rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended,
17 modified, or repealed accordingly.

18 **Sec. 11. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or
19 unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected hereby shall remain valid and
20 enforceable.

21 **Section 12. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from
22 the date of its publication in the Official Gazette or at least two (2) newspapers of general
23 circulation.

Approved,