

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

24 OCT 16 10:03

SENATE
S.B. No. 2851

FILED

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Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A MINIMUM WAGE FOR FARMERS,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XII, Section 1 states that, "*The goals of the national economy are a more equitable distribution of opportunities, income, and wealth.*"

Agriculture is the backbone of our economy. However, agriculture in real terms has been declining. During the past ten (10) years, the Philippine economy grew by an average of 5.8% per annum. On the same time period, the agricultural sector grew by an average of 1.0% per annum.

As of November 2023, the agriculture sector employs 12.19 million individuals or 24.6% of the labor force and was responsible for the creation of 1.24 million new jobs compared to November 2022. However, despite this development, the sector's contribution to national income has been declining.

This data is further captured by the official government statistics. According to the latest official poverty data of the Philippine Statistics Authority as generated through the 2021 Family Income and Expenditure Survey, farmers had a poverty incidence rate of 30% in 2021, which is only slightly lower than the 31.6% in 2018. Rural residents, or those who are primarily employed in agriculture, also recorded the highest number of poor individuals in 2021 at 13.67 million.

Given the factors stated above, it is imperative for the government to guarantee a minimum wage for the country's agricultural workers. Doing so will reduce the poverty

rate of farmers and provide purchasing power to the countryside, allowing economic growth in rural areas.

This bill aims to provide a minimum wage for farmers and farm workers. The bill will mandate the Department of Agriculture to provide income support for farmers to incentivize agriculture in the country.

For the abovementioned reasons, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


IMEE R. MARCOS

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

Section 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “*Minimum Wage for Farmers Act*”.

Sec. 2. Minimum Wage for Farmers. – Farmers and farm workers registered under the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA) should receive the guaranteed minimum wage for agricultural workers as determined by the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board in their respective regions. The Department of Agriculture shall determine the appropriate number of days worked and personnel per hectare of farmland for each major crop. Farmers and farmworkers are entitled for the difference between the computed income of farmers and the actual income received, *Provided that*, the Municipal Agricultural Officer (MAO) or the City Agricultural Officer (CAO) of each local government unit shall be responsible to monitor the output and progress of the farmers and farm workers.

Sec. 3. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with the Secretary of Social Welfare and Development, the Secretary of Budget and Management, and the Secretary of Finance, shall promulgate the rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act. Such rules and regulations shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Sec. 4. Appropriations. – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be provided in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Sec. 5. Separability Clause. – If any provision, or part hereof, is held invalid or

1 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall
2 remain valid and subsisting.

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4 **Sec. 6. *Repealing Clause.*** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
5 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or
6 inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended
7 accordingly.

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9 **Sec. 7. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
10 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

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Approved,