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SENATE

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P.S. RES. NO. 299

Introduced by SENATOR CYNTHIA A. VILLAR

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, EMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT TO INQUIRE AND REVIEW, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS IN AGRICULTURE OF THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA)

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 7796, otherwise known as TESDA Act of 1994, empowers TESDA to establish and maintain a system of accrediting, coordinating, integrating, monitoring and evaluating formal and non-formal technical vocational education and training programs.

WHEREAS, TESDA Board promulgated Resolution No. 98-03 last January 23, 1998 establishing a unified TVET program registration and accreditation system which shall be in consonance with the pursuit of a quality technical vocational education and training system.

WHEREAS, there are two major elements of TESDA accreditation:

- Registration – (compulsory) compliance with minimum standards prescribed in Training Regulations and anchored on competency-based system;
- Accreditation – a form of quality assurance which is over and above the requirements for Program Registration in UTPRAS which shall be voluntary in nature and a form of recognition given by an accrediting body that the program or the institution has met the criteria set by the accrediting body.

WHEREAS, learners who want to have a national certificate must take the assessment exam. Those who passed the exam will receive a National Certificate (NC) signed by the TESDA's director general. National certificate holders for this course can apply for a job as a farm laborer. There is also a National Certificate for a farm supervisor (NC 3) and a farm teacher (NC 4).

WHEREAS, investing in skilled Filipino workforce can help provide inclusive growth. This will enhanced their employability, or have an improved prospects for entrepreneurship and self-employment.

WHEREAS, the agriculture sector is a key employment generator in the Philippines and raising the productivity and efficiency in the sector are critical in maintaining the affordability of food and purchasing power, especially among the poor.

WHEREAS, from 2004 to 2010, agriculture and fisheries contributed an average of 18.4 percent to GDP and the sector grew at an average rate of 2.6 percent annually. This performance is significantly below the target of NEDA which is sustained growth of 4.4 percent to 5.4 percent.

WHEREAS, in terms of employment, the sector employed an average of 11.8 million people. These accounts for almost 35.1 percent of the total work force. If the whole agriculture value chain is considered, the total employment would reach 50%.

WHEREAS, the Philippine productivity of the agricultural workforce has increased annually by an average of 1.66 percent from PhP19, 894 in 2004 to Php21, 553 in 2010, land productivity in terms of yields of traditional crops (e.g. rice, corn, sugarcane and coconut) has stagnated or declined. The Philippine ranked fourth in rice, coconut, sugarcane and fifth in corn out of the five ASEAN countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam).

WHEREAS, in terms of price (producer price), the rice in the Philippines is the most expensive (US\$318.8/MT).

WHEREAS, between 2004 and 2010, agriculture and fisheries sector exports rose from US\$2.5 billion to US\$4.1 billion. The overall balance of trade in agriculture has become increasingly passive, with the deficit widening from US\$837 million in 2004 to US\$3.2 billion in 2010. There is no structural change in the structure of Philippine exports in the same period.

WHEREAS, the increasing demands on the sector' output has put pressure on its natural resource base. Unsustainable practices employed to improve yields have resulted in land degradation and problems of water availability. Climate change and the ASEAN Economic integration have made competitiveness of the sector an issue.

WHEREAS, development efforts is needed to transform the sector into a highly productive, climate-resilient, environment-friendly, and sustainable.

WHEREAS, the comparative advantage of the agriculture sector is not fully exploited. We have remained to be the only agricultural net-importer among comparable ASEAN members. There are particularly emerging crops which can help balance the export equation.

WHEREAS, there is a rural bias to reach the sector considering that they are in remote areas and inaccessible.

WHEREAS, in the absence or the limited number of farm schools, there was considerable efforts made to encourage farm owners to put up farm schools in areas where there are none to improve the capabilities of farm workers and employees and hopefully place new interest using science and technology in farming.

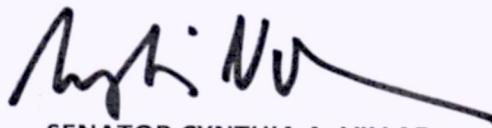
WHEREAS, there is a budget for TESDA Scholarship in agriculture in the 2016 and 2017 General Appropriations Act.

WHEREAS, TESDA has not facilitated, nor encouraged and help reach out to farms intending to be farm schools because of many and changing registration and accreditation requirements and procedures being requested from them.

WHEREAS, except for the traditional courses in agriculture , TESDA has not paid out scholarships to the farm schools that has complied with their tedious processes since July 2016.

RESOLVE BY THE SENATE, to direct the committee on labor, employment and human resources development to inquire and review, in aid of legislation, the TESDA Scholarship in Agriculture program implementation from the period 2016 to the present.

Adopted,



SENATOR CYNTHIA A. VILLAR

Sources:

TESDA website, www.tesda.gov.ph

NEDA website, <http://www.neda.gov.ph/2013/10/21/philippine-development-plan-2011-2016/>