

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



'22 JUL -7 P5 :12

**SENATE**  
S. No. 206

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Introduced by SENATOR RONALD "BATO" DELA ROSA

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**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING DIRECT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO FILIPINO FARMERS,**  
**ESTABLISHING FOR THE PURPOSE THE "FILIPINO FARMERS FINANCIAL**  
**ASSISTANCE PROGRAM", PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER**  
**PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The United Nations' Committee on World Food Security defines 'food security' as a state wherein *all people, at all times, have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their food preferences and dietary needs for an active and healthy life.*<sup>1</sup> Comparing the vision provided by this definition and the reality with which we are faced, we cannot help but admit that we are still a long, long way from attaining food security as a nation.

In moving more closer to food security, there is not just one aspect to look at. Factors include climate change, a growing population, and the undeniable environmental costs of production. Still another often forgotten but fundamental aspect of food security is providing for the well-being of those who belong to our agriculture sector – our farmers.

Article II, Section 9 of the Philippine Constitution provides that it is the duty of the State to "provide a just and dynamic social order to...free the people from poverty

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<sup>1</sup> "Food Security," retrieved from: <https://www.ifpri.org/topic/food-security>, retrieved on 4 July 2022.

through policies that provide adequate social services..."<sup>2</sup> The key is to realize that in providing a just and dynamic social order, we must also be able to assure our citizens of full access to adequate food, and this can be augmented through extending more forms of support for our farmers. After all, they are the very backbone of this sector.

With this bill, we are strengthening the system of assistance that we provide for our farmers, institutionalizing the Filipino Farmers Financial Assistance Program, so that farmers will be motivated to ensure productivity in agriculture. Under this bill, too, the DSWD may provide temporary employment to qualified members through a cash-for-work program.

Realistically speaking, the attainment of food security signifies a long and difficult road ahead. Nevertheless, as long as the Philippines knows how to stand with her farmers and protect their welfare, then we will never be without allies in this fight to finally be food-secure.

It is for these reasons that I earnestly seek the swift passage of this bill.

  
**RONALD "BATO" DELA ROSA**

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<sup>2</sup> 1987 Philippine Constitution, retrieved from: <https://www.chanrobles.com/article2.htm#.YsKnlewRVdu>, retrieved on 4 July 2022.

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Filipino Farmers  
2 Financial Assistance Program Act".

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is a declared policy of the State to promote a  
4 just and dynamic social order through policies that provide adequate social services,  
5 promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life  
6 for all.

7 Towards this end, the State shall formulate and implement programs and  
8 projects guided by a national strategy to reduce poverty in the countryside and ensure  
9 the sufficiency and accessibility of food products for all.

10 Sec. 3. *Filipino Farmers Financial Assistance Program.* - The Filipino Farmers  
11 Financial Assistance Program, hereinafter referred to as the Program, is hereby  
12 established as a national strategy for rural poverty reduction and program for ensuring  
13 food security and sufficiency that provides conditional cash transfer to poor farming  
14 households to mitigate the decline of farming incomes.

1 The financial assistance under this Program shall be supplementary to other  
2 similar undertaking of the government and shall not be a replacement for any existing  
3 programs for farmers.

4 *Sec. 4. Conditional Cash Transfer to Farming Household-Beneficiaries.* The  
5 Advisory Council created under Republic Act No. 11310, otherwise known as the  
6 "*Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) Act,*" shall determine the amount of cash  
7 grants to be extended to farming household-beneficiaries.

8 *Sec. 5. Eligible Beneficiaries.* – The Department of Social Welfare and  
9 Development (DSWD) shall, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture (DA),  
10 the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), and local government units, select qualified  
11 farming household-beneficiaries of the program. From the above selection, farming  
12 households shall be eligible to receive cash grants under the Program after complying  
13 with the following requirement:

14 (a) Household-beneficiaries is engaged in agricultural production through  
15 farming;

16 (b) Responsible person from household-beneficiaries who actually engages in  
17 agricultural production must register with the DA under the Registry System  
18 for Basic Sectors in Agriculture;

19 (c) At least one (1) member from the Household-beneficiary must attend at  
20 least one (1) training program to be conducted by Philippine Center for  
21 Postharvest, Development and Mechanization, Agricultural Training  
22 Institute, or Technical Education and Skills Development Authority in the  
23 respective city or municipality.

24 *Sec. 6. Noncompliance with the Conditions for Entitlement.* – The responsible  
25 person of a reported qualified household-beneficiary who fails to comply with the  
26 conditions set forth in Section 5 of this Act shall be notified in writing. Further payment  
27 of cash grants shall be suspended after four (4) months of noncompliance and the  
28 erring household-beneficiary shall be subject to case management process of the  
29 DSWD.

30 *Sec. 7. Cash-for-Work for Farmers Program.* – As additional income for farming  
31 household-beneficiaries, the DSWD may, in coordination with government agencies  
32 concerned, facilitate short-term intervention to provide temporary employment to

1 members of qualified farming households. Projects that may be incorporated under  
2 the Cash-for-Work Program shall include, but not be limited to:

- 3 (a) Irrigation programs and projects of the DA and the National Irrigation  
4 Administration;
- 5 (b) Public works programs and projects of the Department of Public Works and  
6 Highways;
- 7 (c) Water supply and sanitation projects of the Department of the Interior and  
8 Local Government and local water districts;
- 9 (d) Disaster preparedness, mitigation, relief, rehabilitation, and risk reduction  
10 projects of the Office of the Civil Defense, National Disaster Risk Reduction  
11 and Management Council, and other similar agencies of government; and
- 12 (e) Other similar programs and projects of national government agencies,  
13 government-owned or -controlled corporations, and local government  
14 units.

15 The DSWD shall determine the payment rate of cash-for-work employment:  
16 *Provided,* That such payment shall be in no case lower than seventy percent (70%)  
17 of the prevailing daily wage rate set by the National Wages and Productivity  
18 Commission.

19 *Sec. 8. Lead Agency.* – The DSWD shall serve as the central planning,  
20 coordinating, implementing and monitoring body of the Program. In the  
21 implementation of this Act, the DSWD shall perform the following functions:

- 22 (a) Selection and application of appropriate, effective, and cost-efficient methods  
23 in identification and selection of qualified farming household-beneficiaries  
24 in coordination with the DA and DAR;
- 25 (b) Identification and selection of target farming household-beneficiaries based  
26 on a uniform, objective and transparent selection process;
- 27 (c) Coordination with various national and local government agencies, including  
28 non-government and private sector organizations, to ensure full  
29 implementation of the provision of this Act;
- 30 (d) Establishment of participatory system and methodologies to monitor and  
31 evaluate the compliance of household-beneficiaries and the implementation  
32 of the Program;

- 1 (e) Provision of recommendation measures, rules and regulations to the  
2 Advisory Council in order to improve delivery of commitments made in this  
3 Act;
- 4 (f) Determination of program coverage based on a standardized targeting  
5 system;
- 6 (g) Provision of seminar-workshop and training programs to educate qualified  
7 farming household-beneficiaries about the conditions and other actions  
8 pertinent to this Act;
- 9 (h) Synchronization and harmonization of the implementation of the Program  
10 with other similar or related programs of the government;
- 11 (i) Submission of an annual report to Congress on matters pertinent to the  
12 operations and financial status of the Program; and
- 13 (j) Performance of other functions as may be necessary or incidental to the  
14 proper implementation of the provisions of this Act.

15 *Sec. 9. Monitoring and Evaluation of the Program.* – The DSWD shall monitor  
16 and evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of the Program and report its status  
17 at least once every three (3) years in order to ensure the realization of the objectives  
18 of this Act.

19 The Independent Monitoring Committee created under Republic Act No. 11310,  
20 otherwise known as the "*Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4PS) Act*," shall be  
21 used to complement the monitoring activities of the DSWD in the implementation of  
22 the Program. The Independent Monitoring Committee shall submit a report of its  
23 monitoring activities relative to the implementation of the Program to the Advisory  
24 Council.

25 *Sec. 10. Appropriations.* - The amount necessary for the implementation of the  
26 provisions of this Act shall be included in the funding allocation of the concerned  
27 agencies under the General Appropriation Act.

28 *Sec. 11. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from  
29 the effectivity of his Act, the DSWD, DA, Department of Finance and Department of  
30 Budget and Management shall, in consultation with the appropriate government  
31 agencies and other stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations  
32 to implement this Act.

1           Sec. 12. *Separability Clause.* – If for any reason, any provision of this Act is  
2 declared unconstitutional or invalid, parts of provisions of this Act that are not affected  
3 shall continue to be in full force and effect.

4           Sec. 13. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees,  
5 Implementing Rules and Regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are  
6 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

7           Sec. 14. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
8 publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*