

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10130



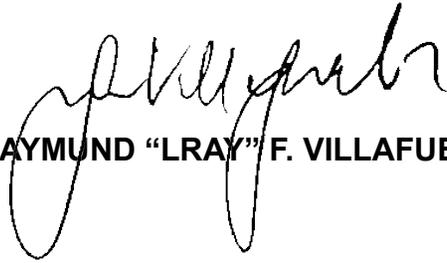
Introduced by **HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**

**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING AN AGRICULTURAL PENSION FUND TO PROVIDE PENSION
BENEFITS TO FARMERS AND FISHERFOLK**

In the decade starting from 2008, the agricultural sector has employed an average 11.4 million Filipinos, accounting for a little less than one-third of total employment. However, agricultural workers especially farmers and fisherfolk, are among the poorest groups in our society, and are not covered by the pension programs of the government.

This bill proposes the establishment an Agricultural Pension Fund that will provide them with pension benefits when they reach the age of retirement. It recognizes that universal access to comprehensive and adequate social protection systems is an important tool to prevent and reduce poverty and inequality.

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


LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10130

Introduced by **HON. LUIS RAYMUND “LRAY” F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING AN AGRICULTURAL PENSION FUND TO PROVIDE PENSION
BENEFITS TO FARMERS AND FISHERFOLK

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

Section 1. This Act shall be known as the "*Agricultural Pension Fund Act.*"

Section 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared a policy of the State to, from time to time, review to upgrade the pensions and other benefits due to retirees of both the government and private sectors. It acknowledges that farmers and fisherfolk are integral part to the country's development, and therefore shall accord due recognition to their great contribution by providing them with pension benefits to assist them with their basic needs when they reach the age of retirement.

Section 3. *Creation of the Agricultural Pension Fund.* – The Agricultural Pension Fund (APF) is hereby established to provide pension benefits to agricultural workers, especially farmers and fisherfolk.

Section 4. *Implementing Agency.* – The Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC), an attached agency of the Department of Agriculture (DA), shall be the implementing agency of the provisions of this Act. In addition to its existing duties and responsibilities, it shall:

- (a) Create a pension plan for agricultural pensioners;
- (b) Manage and invest the APF to ensure its sustainability;
- (c) Determine the criteria for eligibility, in coordination with relevant government agencies;
- (d) Perform other duties and functions towards the efficient and effective implementation of this Act.

Section 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)*. – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the PCIC Board of Directors, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture and representatives of recognized farmers and fisherfolks group, shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

Section 6. *Appropriations*. Such amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual appropriations of the DA.

Section 7. *Separability Clause*. – If any part or provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 8. *Repealing Clause*. – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 9. *Effectivity*. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,