



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

369

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. _____

Introduced by MAGSASAKA Party-list Representative
ARGEL JOSEPH T. CABATBAT

1 **A RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS TO RESTORE**
2 **THE FY 2020 PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (DA)**
3 **AMOUNTING TO 333.2 BILLION PESOS THAT WAS REDUCED BY THE**
4 **DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT TO 71.8 BILLION PESOS**
5
6

7 **WHEREAS**, the Department of Agriculture (DA) proposed a Php333.2 billion agency
8 budget for the Fiscal Year 2020 to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM);
9

10 **WHEREAS**, the proposed budget was geared towards an increase in productivity and
11 competitiveness through continuous implementation of the programs and projects of the
12 department;
13

14 **WHEREAS**, the DBM reduced the proposed budget of the DA to Php71.8 billion, or a
15 measly 21% of the proposed budget, as indicated in the 2020 National Expenditure Program;
16

17 **WHEREAS**, the significant budget cut amounting to Php261.4 billion would severely
18 compromise the obligations of the DA to resolve the issues and problems in the agricultural
19 sector through continuous implementation of its programs and projects;
20

21 **WHEREAS**, the budget reduction would undermine the commitments of the
22 department in arresting the rapidly declining palay farm-gate prices to mitigate the adverse
23 impacts of the rice tariffication law (RTL);
24

1 **WHEREAS**, restoration of the budget cut could help the agency formulate the much-
2 needed social protection programs that will safeguard micro, small and medium enterprises
3 that are being displaced by the RTL implementation;
4

5 **WHEREAS**, the decrease in DA's budget foresees the continuous inability of the
6 National Food Authority (NFA) to increase its procurement of palay from local farmers, help
7 stabilize its price, and achieve its mandate to purchase at least 10% of the country's total
8 rice production;
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10 **WHEREAS**, the proposed budget in its current reduced state would severely limit the
11 agency's resource to structure and execute projects and programs that would guarantee an
12 increase in farmers' yield, lower production cost, and improve their income;
13

14 **WHEREAS**, restoring the proposed budget could lead to the operationalization of
15 essential projects of the department such as farm-to-market roads (FMR), small scale
16 irrigation system, and crop insurance;
17

18 **WHEREAS**, budget restoration would ensure growth of the department's National
19 Livestock Program that aims at improved livestock farmers' lives through continued access to
20 technology, support services, and infrastructure while guaranteeing safe and excellent quality
21 livestock and meat products, as well as providing containment and swift resolution to the
22 industry's problems, such as the African swine flu;
23

24 **WHEREAS**, the substantial cut in the proposed budget would further delay
25 implementation of necessary initiatives that seek to attenuate the various threats to our seas,
26 rivers, and lakes biodiversity which put at risk our fisheries and aquatic resource;
27

28 **WHEREAS**, reinstatement of the proposed budget would allow the agency to
29 effectively come up with new approaches that encourage sustainable fishing and, taking into
30 account that fish is a basic staple food of Filipinos next to rice, further development of highly
31 viable aquaculture enterprises and activities that will boost fish production to augment the
32 diminishing marine resources, thereby promoting the state's thrust of attaining food security;
33

34 **WHEREAS**, the considerably diminished budget significantly hampers the evolvment
35 and realization of the targets laid out in the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act of
36 1997 (AFMA) whereby the state aims to improve the quality of lives of farmers and fisherfolks
37 who are globally competitive with enhanced income and profitability through advancement
38 and modernization of the country's agriculture to ultimately achieve food security/self-
39 sufficiency and poverty alleviation;
40

41 **WHEREAS**, the granting of the proposed budget is in line with President Rodrigo Roa
42 Duterte's pronouncement of the agriculture sector prioritization through sufficient fund
43 allocation which would help the Department of Agriculture progressively achieve its goals;
44

1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED,**
2 by the House of Representatives, that the Committee on Appropriations restores the FY 2020
3 proposed budget of the Department of Agriculture (DA) amounting to 333.2 billion pesos that
4 were reduced by the Department of Budget and Management to 71.8 billion pesos.

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6 *Adopted,*



ARGEL JOSEPH T. CABATBAT
MAGSASAKA Party-List