



Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
Second Regular Session

**HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1222**

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

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**A RESOLUTION**  
**STRONGLY URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO INCREASE**  
**THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (DA)**  
**BY PHP42,000,000.00 FOR THE IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE**  
**PLANT, PLANT, PLANT PROGRAM AS A COVID-19 RECOVERY RESPONSE**

1           **WHEREAS**, the Department of Agriculture (DA) proposed a Php284.4 billion  
2 agency budget to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) for the Fiscal Year  
3 2021 geared towards the implementation of the programs and projects of the department  
4 to improve the productivity of the agriculture sector and increase its contribution to the  
5 national economy;

6           **WHEREAS**, the DBM reduced the proposed budget of the DA to a mere Php86.3  
7 billion as contained in the 2020 National Expenditure Program, a measly 30% of the  
8 department's total budget proposal;

9           **WHEREAS**, the budget reduction would undermine the efforts of the department  
10 in fast-tracking the modernization of the country's agriculture to transition to a better  
11 performing sector and high-income contributor to the economy;

12

1           **WHEREAS**, only agriculture, fishing, and forestry posted a GDP growth of 1.6% in  
2 the second quarter of 2020, with a 0.5% increase in production of crops and fisheries,  
3 according to the Philippine Statistics Authority<sup>1</sup>, and registered the lowest employment  
4 loss among all economic sectors despite the constraints and challenges following the  
5 implementation of community quarantine in various parts of the country;

6           **WHEREAS**, this growth underlines the important role of agriculture in ensuring  
7 that the country will be able to bounce back from the economic slump resulting from the  
8 pandemic;

9           **WHEREAS**, under the recently-enacted Republic Act No. 11494, or the "*Bayanihan*  
10 *to Recover as One Act*," only Php24 billion was appropriated, out of the Php66-billion  
11 proposed stimulus plan of the DA, to finance the Plant, Plant, Plant program to boost the  
12 country's recovery from the adverse impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic to the economy;

13           **WHEREAS**, the infusion of the Php42 billion to the FY 2021 budget of DA will  
14 restore the original Php66 billion package of the Plant, Plant, Plant program for the full  
15 implementation and operationalization of essential programs and projects as COVID-19  
16 recovery response;

17           **WHEREAS**, the granting of the additional Php42 billion is in accordance with the  
18 pronouncement of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte that a healthy agriculture sector  
19 assures the growth of our economy;

20           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**,  
21 that the House of Representatives is urged to increase the Fiscal Year 2021 budget of the  
22 Department of Agriculture (DA) by Php42,000,000.00 for the immediate implementation  
23 of the Plant, Plant, Plant program as a COVID-19 recovery response.

*Adopted,*



**REP. ARGEL JOSEPH T. CABATBAT**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://psa.gov.ph/press-releases/id/162842>