Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City  

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
Second Regular Session  

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1261  

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

A RESOLUTION  
STRONGLY URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO INCREASE  
THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (DA)  
BY FORTY-TWO BILLION PESOS (PHP 42,000,000,000.00) FOR THE IMMEDIATE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLANT, PLANT, PLANT PROGRAM AS  
A COVID-19 RECOVERY RESPONSE  

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

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

WHEREAS, the budget reduction would undermine the efforts of the department  
in fast-tracking the modernization of the country’s agriculture to transition to a better  
performing sector and high-income contributor to the economy;
WHEREAS, only agriculture, fishing, and forestry posted a GDP growth of 1.6% in the second quarter of 2020, with a 0.5% increase in production of crops and fisheries, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority\(^1\), and registered the lowest employment loss among all economic sectors despite the constraints and challenges following the implementation of community quarantine in various parts of the country;

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

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

WHEREAS, the infusion of the Forty-two Billion Pesos (Php42,000,000,000.00) to the FY 2021 budget of DA will restore the original Php66 billion package of the Plant, Plant, Plant program for the full implementation and operationalization of essential programs and projects as COVID-19 recovery response;

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives is urged to increase the Fiscal Year 2021 budget of the Department of Agriculture (DA) by Forty-two Billion Pesos (Php 42,000,000,000.00) for the immediate implementation of the Plant, Plant, Plant program as a COVID-19 recovery response.

Adopted,

\[\text{REP. ARGEL JOSEPH T. CABATBAT}\]

\(^1\) https://psa.gov.ph/press-releases/id/162842