



Republic of the Philippines

House of Representatives  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
Second Regular Session

House Resolution No. **1454**



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Introduced by Representatives ELISA "OLGA" T. KHO, M.D., FCCP, ALFRED C. DE LOS SANTOS, FERNANDO T. CABREDO, LEONARDO L. BABASA, JR., ALAN 1 B. ECLEO, ROMEO M. JALOSJOS, JR., MAXIMO Y. DALOG, JR. SERGIO C. DAGOOC, EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT, AND GODOFREDO N. GUYA

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#### A RESOLUTION

**URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT TO REVIEW THE CRITERIA AND QUALIFICATIONS OF THE POOREST OF THE POOR PROVINCES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SPECIAL AREA FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, AND PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS THEREFORE**

**WHEREAS**, Article II, Section 9 of the Philippine Constitution provides that the State "shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, an improved standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all";

**WHEREAS**, in the past forty (40) years, the economic growth in the Philippines has registered in terms of Gross Domestic Production, rise of new industries, increase in foreign investments, and rapid urbanization; however, this economic progress has not translated in reducing the poverty incidence in the rural areas where in the poor remains poor;

**WHEREAS**, farmers, fisherfolks and individuals residing in the rural areas posted the highest poverty incidence among the 10 of 14 basic sectors identified in the Social Reform and Poverty Alleviation Act or Republic Act 8425, at 40.8%, 36.8%, and 34.0% respectively based on the 2018 Poverty Incidence Report of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)\*;

**WHEREAS**, the continuing problem of poverty in the Philippines is shown in the national government's priority assistance program for the poorest of the poor provinces identified by the PSA, and those covered under Executive Order No. 70, series of 2018\*\*, where 10million Filipinos are employed in the agricultural sector;

**WHEREAS**, the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) was created in 2016 and implemented in 2017 to contribute in the poverty reduction and inclusive growth through the provision of quality and timely agricultural interventions on animals, crops and fisheries (capture fishery and aquaculture) to identified beneficiaries; **WHEREAS**, Memorandum Circular No. 15, Series of 2019 of the Department of Agriculture provides guidelines in the implementation of the SAAD Program for the remaining FY 2020-2022 in its project areas covering farmer and fisherfolk beneficiaries which are not recipients of DA's regular programs interventions (at least 2 years) but complementing DA's mandate to alleviate poverty in the poor farmers and fisheries sector;

**WHEREAS**, this difficult economic situation is further aggravated with the impact of the Corona Virus

Disease (COVID) 19 pandemic, as shown in the latest report dated October 2020 of the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) which cited postings of additional 4.5 million poor Filipinos , additional 2.3 million unemployed, and additional hungry people at 23.7 million\*\*\*, and the damages to life, livelihood and properties, agriculture and infrastructure of the recent catastrophic typhoons Quinta, Rolly and Ulysses estimated at Php41.61 billion\*\*\*\*;

**WHEREAS**, with this increasing poverty incidence in the poorest of the poor provinces impacted by the pandemic and natural disasters, the SAAD Program faces the serious compounding challenge to intensify the implementation of its project services with its limited budget and resources, and inadequate manpower complement especially in the field operations. The SAAD must therefore be provided sufficient period of time and commensurate budget to address this serious challenge;

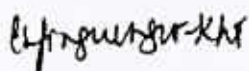
**WHEREAS**, with this new development, the challenge remains for the Committee on Rural Development to closely review and recommend with the SAAD Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA), the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) on: a) the criteria and beneficiary eligibility of poor households; b) the identification of additional and reasonable criteria of other poorest of the poor provinces and municipalities which are geographically isolated and disadvantaged in delivering basic services to the communities; c) the setting of additional official parameters responsive to the impact of the pandemic and severe natural disasters; and d) the proposal for additional and sufficient appropriations on provisions of agricultural and related interventions in the poor farming and fisheries sector;

**WHEREAS**, with the review and recommendations shall allow the SAAD Program to include additional provinces and municipalities to be covered for the year 2021 onwards and provide additional funding to cover such expansion, all in compliance to the implementation guidelines set by the program.



**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, the House Committee on Rural Development is urged to review the current criteria of identified poorest of the poor provinces of the SAAD Program, and submit recommendations therefore.

Adopted.




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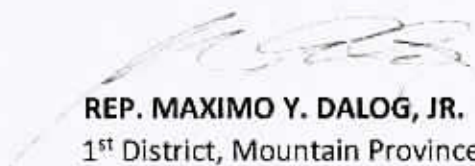


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**REP. GODOFREDO N. GUYA**  
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\*(PSA report released on June 3, 2020)

\*\*Executive Order No. 70, Series of 2018, Institutionalizing The Whole of Nation Approach in Attaining Inclusive and Sustainable Peace, Creating a National Task Force To End The Armed Communist Conflict, and Directing The Adoption of A National Peace Framework\*

\*\*\*NEDA Acting Director General Karl Chua: Impact of COVID-19 on The Economy and the People, and The Need To Manage Risk, 22

October 2020

\*\*\*\*data from DA – FPOPD and NDRRMC