



1 Republic of the Philippines  
2 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
3 Quezon City  
4 SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
5 First Regular Session  
6 HOUSE BILL NO. 2906

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9 INTRODUCED BY HON. VINI NOLA A. ORTEGA  
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11  
12 AN ACT REQUIRING THE MANDATORY INCLUSION OF BASIC  
13 FARMING AND AGRICULTURAL AWARENESS IN THE CURRICULA OF  
14 ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT  
15 THE PHILIPPINES.  
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19 EXPLANATORY NOTE  
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21 The Philippines has a total land area of about 30 million hectares and  
22 approximately 9.67 million hectares of which are classified as agricultural. The  
23 agricultural land area represents 32.22% of the total land area of the country.<sup>1</sup>  
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25 Considering the agricultural predominance of our country, it is imperative  
26 that the Filipino people further enrich and strengthen this vast natural resource  
27 through inculcating its importance to the youth coupled with the basic and  
28 practical knowledge of farming and agricultural awareness in the school  
29 curricula.  
30

31 The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall  
32 promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-  
33 being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage  
34 their involvement in public and civic affairs.

<sup>1</sup> Data from Philippine Statistics Authority

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The State shall give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development.

The State shall promote comprehensive rural development and agrarian reform.

In line with the foregoing declared State policies, a step towards the objectives mentioned above is by requiring the mandatory inclusion of basic farming and agricultural awareness to our youth in the curricula of all public and private elementary schools throughout the Philippines.

The Department of Education (Deped) has already implemented a similar undertaking through programs such as the *"Gulayan sa Paaralan Program (GPP)"* through Memorandum No. 191 series of 2013. Also, the current K-12 program has provided for a Technology and Livelihood Education which includes Agri-Fishery Arts.

To reinforce and fortify these existing programs, this Bill is being proposed to give life and institutionalize the mandatory inclusion of said programs in the curricula of the Filipino youth in all elementary schools.

Hence, the approval of this Bill is earnestly sought.

  
HON. VINI NOLA A. ORTEGA  
Representative  
ABONO Party-list

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93 **Section 1. Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Basic Farming and  
94 Agricultural Awareness for the Youth Act of 2016”.  
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96 **Section 2. Declaration of Policy.** –

97 The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall  
98 promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-  
99 being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage  
100 their involvement in public and civic affairs.

101 The State shall give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture,  
102 and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and  
103 promote total human liberation and development.

104 The State shall promote comprehensive rural development and agrarian reform.  
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106 Towards this end, basic farming and agricultural awareness must be imparted to  
107 the Filipino youth in all public and private elementary schools through  
108 mandatory inclusion of these subjects in their respective school curricula. The  
109 State shall establish, maintain, and support a complete, adequate, and  
110 sustainable system of education or learning to attain said objective.

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112 **Section 3. Definition of Terms.** – For purposes of this Bill, the following terms  
113 shall be defined as follows:

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115 (a) *Basic Farming* refers to the fundamentals of the practice of cultivating  
116 land for crops, plants, fruits, fruit trees, vegetation, fungi, and other life  
117 forms for food, fiber, and other products used to sustain life, as well as  
118 cultivation of animals and raising stock.

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120 (b) *Agricultural Awareness* refers to basic information or knowledge of the  
121 fundamental principles of agriculture, its scientific, social, economic,  
122 and industrial implications in the community and the country as a  
123 whole.

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125 **Section 4. Mandatory inclusion of Basic Farming and Agricultural**  
126 **Awareness in school curricula.** – Basic Farming and Agricultural Awareness  
127 shall now be mandatorily included as required subjects in the academic curricula  
128 of all public and private elementary schools throughout the Philippines.

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130 The Department of Education (DepEd) shall ensure that a scientifically  
131 supported program be integrated to existing school curricula in order to cover  
132 the areas of Basic Farming and Agricultural Awareness. The DepEd shall  
133 institutionalize high standards of learning and teaching methods to ensure  
134 credibility and academic integrity of said subjects.

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136 Within one (1) year from the issuance of the Implementing Rules and  
137 Regulations (IRR) of this Act, Basic Farming and Agricultural Awareness shall be  
138 included in the curricula of all public and private elementary schools throughout  
139 the Philippines.

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142 **Section 5. Implementing Agency.** – The Department of Education (DepEd)  
143 through the Bureau of Curriculum Development, shall develop and maintain  
144 new programs to be integrated with existing similar programs or subjects,  
145 creating and including Basic Farming and Agriculture Awareness in the school  
146 curricula of all public and private elementary schools.

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148 **Section 6. Skills Training and Development.** – The Department of Education  
149 (DepEd), Department of Agriculture (DA), Technical Education Skills  
150 Development Authority (TESDA), and the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI),  
151 and other related agencies shall continuously provide scientific and technical  
152 training and provisions for materials and equipment necessary for faculty  
153 members for teaching and dissemination of Basic Farming and Agricultural  
154 Awareness to the students.

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156 **Section 7. Appropriations.** – The Secretary of the Department of Education  
157 (DepEd) shall immediately include in the Department's program the  
158 development and maintenance of Basic Farming and Agricultural Awareness,  
159 the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations  
160 Act.

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162 **Section 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within ninety (90) days after  
163 the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Education (DepEd), in consultation  
164 with and support of the Department of Agriculture (DA), Technical Education  
165 Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and the Agricultural Training Institute  
166 (ATI), and other related agencies, shall formulate the rules and regulations  
167 necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

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169 **Section 9. Separability Clause.** - If any provision or part hereof is held invalid  
170 or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision thereof shall  
171 remain valid and effective.

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173 **Section 10. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
174 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general  
175 circulation.

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177 Approved

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