

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

17th CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 6997



Introduced by: **Hon. Deogracias B. Ramos, Jr.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to spur development of rural barangays by allocating funds in the national budget every year.

The economic growth of barangays in rural areas has always been hampered by lack or scarce fund. As a result, these areas remain undeveloped or underdeveloped for a long time, and its residents hardly feel that the government is working for them.

These areas need government support because seventy percent (70%) of the poor families (farmers and fishermen) in the country are rural. The average income of Filipino farmers, whose average age is 57 years, is only \$50 a month, working on his 1.5-hectare farm.¹

In fact, farmers and fishermen posted the highest poverty incidences in 2015 at 34.3% and 34%, respectively.²

For rural communities, health and nutrition are also linked with farming, food production, income generation, among other things. Thus, we need to provide adequate money for nutrition and health programs as a form of investment to poor people.

Without steady government financial support, rural folks will be left out in the development of the country which is mostly concentrated in urban areas.

All considered, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


DEOGRACIAS B. RAMOS, JR.

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**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A RURAL DEVELOPMENT
AMELIORATION FUND**

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* 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, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all.

SECTION 2. *Annual Appropriation.* There shall be included in the annual national budget Four Million Pesos (P4,000,000.00) as Rural Development Amelioration Fund for every rural barangay.

SECTION 3. *Trust Fund Classification.* The Rural Development Amelioration Fund shall be regularly released to rural barangays and shall be treated as trust fund in their annual budget.

SECTION 4. *Rural Barangay.* A rural barangay is one defined as such by the National Statistical Coordination Board.

SECTION 5. *Rural Development Amelioration Fund.* The fund shall be solely allocated as follows - P1,000,000.00 for infrastructure development, P1,000,000.00 for agriculture and/or fishery development, P1,000,000.00 for livelihood program, P500,000.00 for burial, food, medical, transportation and educational assistance, and P500,000.00 for nutrition program.

SECTION 6. *Implementing Rules.* The Department of Interior and Local Government shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations of this Act.

SECTION 7. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved.