

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



SEVENTEENTH (17th) CONGRESS
First Regular Session

Begun and held in Metro Manila, on Wednesday, First Day
of March, Two Thousand Seventeen.

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HOUSE SPECIAL
COMMITTEE ON NORTH LUZON GROWTH QUADRANGLE ON MARCH 1, 2017 AT
NINE THIRTY IN THE MORNING AT THE SPEAKER ZULUETA HALL, 2ND FLOOR,
SOUTH WING ANNEX BLDG., BATASAN COMPLEX CONSTITUTION HILLS,
QUEZON CITY

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 886

RESOLUTION EARNESTLY RECOMMENDING TO THE DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE (DA) TO INCREASE ITS BUDGET ON FARM-
TO-MARKET ROADS (FMRs) AND BRIDGES CONSTRUCTION OR
REHABILITATION TO MOTIVATE THE FARMERS TO PLANT
MORE, ULTIMATELY INCREASING THEIR PRODUCTION AND
INCOME

WHEREAS, the DA is in charge of promoting agricultural
development and is mandated to raise farm income and work opportunities
for farmers, fishers, and other rural workers;

WHEREAS, one of the mandates of DA is to ensure a sufficient food
supply in the Philippines, by helping farmers in all aspects of their needs;

WHEREAS, Republic Act 8435 or the Agriculture and Fisheries Act of
1997 mandates the DA to be on top of FMR projects and that DA leads the
construction, restoration, and rehabilitation of infrastructures like irrigation

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systems, post-harvest facilities, and farm-to-market roads (FMRs), in partnership with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and local government units (LGUs);

WHEREAS, the FMRs provide market access to farmers, improve the mobility of people, goods, and services and likewise provide access to employment opportunities and basic social services such as schools and health centers;

WHEREAS, the FMRs are the foundation of modern agriculture that serve as catalysts in improving rural economy;

WHEREAS, many rural areas are lacking in FMRs, compromising the livelihood and household food security of farmers that contribute to one of the Philippines' greatest ironies: Farmers, one of the country's main food producers, are also among the poorest and hungriest;

WHEREAS, the CY 2017 DA budget for FMRs is a measly 50% of previous year's budget allocation for the same account for the construction and rehabilitation of FMRs;

WHEREAS, the DA needs to catch up in light of the regular DA infrastructure program backlogs and i-Build component of the PRDP of which eligible sub-projects such as construction or rehabilitation of farm-to-market roads and bridges need immediate funding for implementation;

WHEREAS, in view of the urgent need of the DA to implement the much needed construction or rehabilitation of FMRs and bridges nationwide and in Regions I, II and CAR in particular, it was moved and seconded during the Special Committee on North Luzon Growth Quadrangle meeting that a Resolution be passed seeking the DA Secretary to significantly increase the agency's budget on FMRs and bridges construction or rehabilitation for FY 2018.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED to recommend to the DA Secretary to significantly increase the agency's budget allocation on FMRs and bridges construction or rehabilitation nationwide and particularly in Regions I, II and CAR for FY 2018.



APPROVED,


Hon. MAXIMO B. DALOG

Chairman

Special Committee on North Luzon Growth Quadrangle

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HON. TEDDY BRAWNER BAGUILAT, JR.

Cecilia Leonila V. Chavez

HON. CECILIA LEONILA V. CHAVEZ