



LEAGUE OF PROVINCES OF THE PHILIPPINES

POSITION PAPER ON:

House Bill No. 6721

**“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE AGRICULTURE INFORMATION SYSTEM (AIS)
IN ALL CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES,”**

Sponsored by Rep. Lorenz R. Defensor

Comment:

The League of Provinces of the Philippines support the passage of H.B. 6721, or the “Agriculture Information System Act” on the following grounds:

- Having an updated and robust agriculture information system (AIS) will help inform both local and national government on the proper interventions and programs it needs to set in place to help the agricultural sector, specially now, with the new norm, this online portal will be very crucial in enhancing the agriculture sector.
- By having a comprehensive and updated agricultural database, government will be able to easily identify the farmers, where they are, what they are producing, and the corresponding volume. This way, government will also able to track challenge areas where intervention is needed, as well as identify and possibly incentivize best practices for scale up and replication;
- Data analytics would be easier and more reflective of the current state of Philippine agriculture;
- Rationalization of the country’s food sufficiency program resulting from the real-time agricultural production broken down on a per municipality, per city, per province basis;
- The AIS would be a useful tool to put the farmers directly into the production value chain, instead of just being at the mercy of middlemen;
- The AIS will benefit provinces through strategic agriculture investment and promotion programs in order to incentivize the development of the sector;
- It will promote strategic and needs-based intervention by the DA;
- However, the local agriculture system to be developed by the DA needs to be accessible both offline and online giving due consideration to municipalities with poor internet connectivity. ###

Respectfully Submitted By:


GOV. PRESBITRO J. VELASCO, JR.
National President