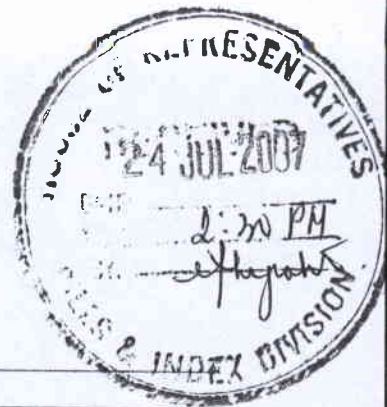


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

14th Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1265



Introduced by Representative ABRAHAM KAHLIL B. MITRA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act 6657, better known as the "Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988" was indeed a landmark legislation with the noble intent of providing for a more equitable distribution and ownership of land, with due regard to the rights of landowners to just compensation and to the ecological needs of the nation. Penultimately, this law was enacted with a view to provide the farmers and farm workers with the opportunity to enhance their dignity and improve the quality of their lives through greater productivity of agricultural lands.

Republic Act 6657 is due to expire by 2008 and it was then envisioned that the intent, letter and spirit of the law would have been achieved by that time.


Thus far, over six (6) million hectares of land have been distributed to farmer beneficiaries. The Department of Land Reform claims to have reached 85% of its target as of 2005. Some may likely argue that R.A. 6657 is a success but that would only be on the land distribution aspect. The sad reality, however, is on the ground level. Farmer beneficiaries were not able to sustain productivity and have not been able to gain better access to market. The agricultural sector, that comprises 70% of the countryside, has remained the poorest amongst the poor. Experts agree that the post-2008 scenario for agrarian reform would even be worst.

Put simply, the agrarian reform agenda of the country already failed and the worst is yet to come by 2008. Funds, efforts and the ten years would simply go to waste as the agrarian reform of this country failed to achieve its logical conclusion.

If the logical conclusion of the agrarian reform program is to be achieved, it is imperative that Republic Act 6657 be extended for at least another five (5) years focused on a sustainable method with emphasis on a more comprehensive support services for all stakeholders particularly farmer beneficiary development.

This bill seeks, not only to extend Republic Act 6657, but to (1) provide for more additional allocation for support services; (2) strengthening the agrarian reform communities and possibly granting incentives to such areas; and (3) the creation of a multi-sectoral oversight committee that will be mandated to ensure the sustainability of the program and that will require an impact validation.

If we are to give spirit to the letter of the agrarian reform law, passage of this bill is urgently requested.


ABRAHAM KAHLIL B. MITRA
2nd District of Palawan

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

14th Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1265

Introduced by Representative ABRAHAM KAHLIL B. MITRA

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING FURTHER THE COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM (CARP) BY PROVIDING AUGMENTATION FUND, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE SECTIONS 2, 36, AND 63 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6657, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "THE CARP LAW OF 1988" AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT 7905 AND REPUBLIC ACT 8532, DIRECTING THE CONDUCT OF A PROCESS FOR CARP IMPACT VALIDATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

3
4 SECTION 1. Section 2 of Republic Act No. 6657, otherwise known as the
5 "Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988," is hereby amended to read as follows:

6
7 "Section 2. *Declaration of Principles and Policies* - It is the policy of the State
8 to pursue a **SUSTAINABLE** Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program
9 (CARP). The welfare of the landless farmers and farm workers will receive
10 the highest consideration to promote social justice and to move the nation
11 towards sound rural development and industrialization, and the establishment
12 of owner cultivatorship of economic-sized farms as the basis of Philippine
13 agriculture. **A SUSTAINABLE COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM**
14 **PROGRAM SHALL INCLUDE A SUFFICIENT, EFFICIENT, AND**
15 **IMPROVED SYSTEM FOR THE DELIVERY OF SUPPORT SERVICES TO**
16 **THE FARMERS, FARM WORKERS AND LANDOWNERS, AS WELL AS**
17 **COOPERATIVES AND OTHER INDEPENDENT FARMERS'**
18 **ORGANIZATION.**

19
20 "TO REALIZE THE GOALS AGRARIAN REFORM, a more equitable
21 distribution and ownership of land, with due regard to the rights of
22 landowners to just compensation and to the ecological needs of the nation,
23 shall be undertaken to provide farmers and farm workers with the opportunity
24 to enhance their dignity and improve the quality of their lives through greater
25 productivity of agricultural lands. X X X

26

1 SECTION 2. Section 36 of Republic Act No. 6657 as amended by Section 2 of
2 Republic Act No. 7905 is hereby further amended to read as follows:
3

4 "SEC. 36. Funding for Support Services. - In order to cover the expenses and
5 cost of support services, at least [twenty-five percent (25%)] **FIFTY**
6 **PERCENT (50%)** of all appropriations for agrarian reform shall be
7 immediately set aside and made available for this purpose: Provided, That
8 **FROM 2009 AND** for the next five (5) years **THEREAFTER**, a minimum of
9 [one (1)] **THREE (3)** Agrarian Reform Community (ARC) shall be established
10 by the DAR **PER YEAR**, in coordination with the local government units, non-
11 governmental organizations and people organizations in each legislative
12 district with a predominant agricultural population: Provided, further, That the
13 areas in which the ARCs are to be established shall have been fully
14 subjected under this law.
15

16 "For this purpose, an Agrarian Reform Community shall be defined as a
17 barangay or a cluster of barangays primarily composed and managed by
18 Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries who shall be willing to be organized and
19 undertake the integrated development of an area and/or their organizations/
20 cooperative. In each community, the DAR, together with the agencies and
21 organizations abovementioned, shall identify the farmers association,
22 cooperative or their respective federation approved by the farmers-
23 beneficiaries that shall take the lead in the agricultural development of the
24 area. In addition, the DAR shall be authorized to package proposals and
25 receive grants, aid and other forms **GRATUITOUS** of financial assistance
26 from any source."
27

28 SECTION 3. Section 63 of Republic Act No. 6657, as amended by Republic Act
29 8532, is further amended to read as follows:
30

31 "Section 63. *Funding source.* — **UNTIL THE YEAR 2013**, the initial amount
32 needed to implement [is Act until the year 2008] the **AGRARIAN REFORM**
33 **PROGRAM DESCRIBED AND DEFINED IN THIS ACT**, shall be funded from
34 the Agrarian Reform Fund, with an initial amount of fifty billion pesos
35 (P50,000,000,000.00), as provided for under Sections 20 of Executive Order
36 (EO) No. 229.
37

38 "Additional [amounts] **FUNDS** necessary for [this purpose] **PROGRAM**
39 **IMPLEMENTATION**, are hereby authorized to be appropriated [in excess of
40 the initial funds] **IN ORDER TO AUGMENT THE INITIAL FUNDS AS**
41 **PROVIDED UNDER ABOVE-MENTIONED EXECUTIVE ORDER.**

1
2 "The additional amount hereby authorized to be appropriated shall in no case
3 exceed [Fifty billion pesos [(P50,000,000,000.00)] **ONE HUNDRED BILLION**
4 **PESOS (P100 BILLION).**¹
5

6 "Sources of funding or appropriations shall include the following:
7

- 8 "a) XXX;
9 "b) XXX;
10 "c) XXX;
11 "d) XXX;
12 "e) XXX;
13 "f) Yearly appropriations of no less than [Three] **FIVE** billion
14 pesos [(P3, 000, 000,000.00)] **P5,000,000,000.00** [from]
15 **THROUGH** the General Appropriations Act;
16 "g) XXX."
17

18 **SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION FOR 2009-2013. -- THE AMOUNT OF FIFTY**
19 **BILLION PESOS (P50,000,000,000.00) IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO BE**
20 **APPROPRIATED TO COVER THE FUNDING REQUIREMENTS OF THE CARP FOR THE**
21 **YEARS 2009-2013, WHICH AMOUNT IS INCLUDED IN THE AUGMENTATION FUND OF**
22 **ONE HUNDRED BILLION PESOS (P100,000,000,000.00) UNDER SECTION 3 OF THIS**
23 **ACT.**
24
25

26 **SECTION 5. OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE. -- AN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE IS**
27 **HEREBY CREATED COMPOSED OF THREE (3) REPRESENTATIVES EACH FROM THE**
28 **SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THREE (3) EACH FROM THE**
29 **DAR, DA AND THE DENR TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN AND ENSURE THE**
30 **SUSTAINABILITY OF THE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM. THE COMMITTEE SHALL**
31 **MEET ONCE EVERY YEAR TO SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE**
32 **OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THEIR EVALUATION AS TO THE PERFORMANCE OF THE**
33 **AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM.**
34

35 **THE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MAY HIRE COMPETENT CONSULTANTS FOR**
36 **MONITORING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CONCERNS RELATED TO THE**
37 **ACCOMPLISHMENT AND IMPACT VALIDATION OF THIS ACT.**
38

¹ Inclusive of the fifty billion (P 50 B) authorized to be appropriated under Republic Act No. 8532 (of 1998)