

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City



FOURTEENTH (14<sup>TH</sup>) CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2280

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Introduced by Hon. Ronald V. Singson

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to extend the effectivity of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

Republic Act 6657, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988 was signed into law last June 11, 1988 by then President Corazon Aquino. It was enacted for the purpose of pursuing a Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) for the welfare of the landless farmers and farmworkers, and to promote social justice, move the nation toward sound rural development, industrialization, and the establishment of owner cultivatorship of economic-size farms as the basis of Philippine agriculture.

The Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program is a vital instrument of the government for the farmer-beneficiaries to improve their quality of life, by providing them training, infrastructures and post-harvest facilities. However, twenty years after its implementation, 1.2 million hectares of land remain undistributed. Moreover, according to a report prepared by the DAR-German (GTZ) study, the Philippines has transformed from a net agricultural exporter into a net agricultural importer which runs counter to the objectives of CARP. Due to several factors that hurt Philippine agriculture, it is now in a state of distress and needs five more years to complete the land distribution program. Apart from that, issues related to its successful implementation need to be addressed.

The extension of CARP's effectivity will definitely redound to the welfare not only of the landless farmers in the countryside, but to the future of Philippine agricultural industry as well.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly recommended.

  
RONALD V. SINGSON

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AN ACT  
EXTENDING THE EFFECTIVITY OF THE COMPREHENSIVE  
AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM, AMENDING FOR THE  
PURPOSE THE COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM LAW  
OF 1988

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

**SECTION 1.** Section 5, Chapter II of Republic Act No. 6657, otherwise  
known as the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988, is hereby  
amended to read as follows:

“ **CHAPTER II**  
**COVERAGE**

X	X	X
X	X	X

Sec. 5. Schedule of Implementation.- The distribution  
of all lands covered by this Act shall be implemented immediately and  
completed within [ten (10)] TWENTY FIVE (25) years from the  
effectivity thereof.

X X X.”

**SEC.2.**Section 36 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 36. *Funding for Support Services:* In order to cover the expenses and cost of support services, at least [twenty-five percent (25%)] FIFTY PERCENT (50%) of all appropriations for agrarian reform shall be immediately set aside and made available for this purpose: Provided, That for the next five (5) years, a minimum of (1) Agrarian Reform Community (ARC) shall be establish by the DAR, in coordination with the local government units, non-governmental organizations and people organizations in each legislative district with a predominant agricultural population: *Provided, further,* That the areas in which the ARCs are to be established shall have been fully subjected under this law.

**SEC. 3.** Section 63, Chapter XIV of the same Act is hereby further amended to read as follows:

**“CHAPTER XIV  
FINANCING**

**Sec.63.** *Funding Service.-* The amount needed to implement this Act until the year [2008]2013 shall be funded from the Agrarian Reform Fund.

Additional amounts necessary for this purpose are hereby authorized to be appropriated in excess of the initial funds, amounting to Fifty billion pesos (P50,000,000,000.00) provided under Sections 20 and 21 of Executive Order No.229.

The additional amount hereby authorized to be appropriated shall in no case exceed Fifty billion pesos (P50,000,000,000.00)

X	X	X
X	X	X
X	X	X

**SEC.4.** This Act shall take effect within fifteen (15) days following the completion of its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,