

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

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 328

Introduced by **HONORABLE EDCEL C. LAGMAN**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Barely one year is left of the ten-year extension granted by Republic Act No. 8532 to the implementation of the land acquisition and distribution component of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP), which was launched in 1988 as the centerpiece program of the Aquino administration.

A social justice and poverty-alleviation program so pivotal to rural development must not be abandoned. Hence, the imperative for another extension for at least five years.

Land acquisition and distribution must be relentlessly pursued. This must be complemented by a bigger funding for support services. Agricultural land, once acquired and distributed, must be productively used. Agrarian reform once attained, must be sustained.

This bill seeks to sustain the implementation of CARP. Acknowledging the acquisition and distribution of all agricultural lands as a priority program component of CARP, it extends its implementation for five years from 2008 up to 2013. Moreover, it provides for a one hundred billion funding for CARP even as it increases the funding share of support services from the present 25% under R.A. 7905 to 40% of all appropriations for agrarian reform. To ensure transparent, responsible and responsive spending of the agrarian reform fund, the bill requires the Department of Agrarian Reform to submit to Congress an Annual Progress Report on the implementation of CARP.

Accordingly, enactment of this bill into law would strengthen CARP and promote economic growth with equity.


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AN ACT
SUSTAINING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM (CARP), EXTENDING THE ACQUISITION AND DISTRIBUTION OF ALL AGRICULTURAL LANDS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. *Extension of Land Acquisition and Distribution.* – The acquisition and distribution of all agricultural lands as provided under Section 7 of Republic Act No. 6657 otherwise known as the "Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988", as amended, shall be extended for a period of five years from 2008 up to 2013.

SEC. 2. *Funding source.* — The amount of One Hundred Billion Pesos (100,000,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated for the land acquisition and distribution and for the other funding requirements of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

Sources of funding shall include the following:

- a) Proceeds of the sales of the Assets Privatization Trust;
- b) All receipts from assets recovered and from sales of ill-gotten wealth recovered through the Presidential Commission on Good Government without prejudice to the amount appropriated for compensation to victims of human rights violations under the applicable law;
- c) Proceeds of the disposition and development of the properties of the Government in foreign countries;
- d) All income and collections arising from the agrarian reform operations, projects and programs of CARP implementing agencies;
- e) Gratuitous financial assistance from legitimate sources;
- f) Yearly appropriations of no less than Five billion pesos (P5,000,000,000.00) from the General Appropriations Act; and
- g) Other government funds not otherwise appropriated.



SEC. 3. Funding for Support Services. —At least forty percent (40%) of all appropriations for agrarian reform shall be immediately set aside and made available to cover the expenditure and cost of support services to all stakeholders of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program: *Provided*, That for the five-year extension period (2008-2013), a minimum of three (3) Agrarian Reform Communities (ARCs) shall be established by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) per year in coordination with the local government units, non-governmental organizations and people's organizations in each legislative district with a predominantly agricultural population: *Provided, further*, That the areas in which the ARCs are to be established shall have been fully subjected under Republic Act. No. 6657.

SEC. 4. Annual Report. — The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) shall submit to the House of Representatives and the Senate within thirty (30) days following the end of each fiscal year during the five-year extension period referred to under Section 1 herein a detailed progress report on the implementation of CARP. The appropriate committees of Congress may *motu proprio* or upon request by a legitimate CARP stakeholder jointly conduct a public hearing on the said report.

SEC. 5. Repealing Clause. — Sections 7 and 63 of Republic Act No. 6657 as amended by Section 1 of Republic Act No. 8532 and Section 36 of Republic Act No. 6657 as amended by Section 2 of Republic Act No. 7905 and all other laws, decrees, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 6. Separability. — If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, other sections not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 7. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect immediately after publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

