

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. BILL NO. 935

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INTRODUCED BY HONORABLE RENO G. LIM

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

The dawn of RA 6657 Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL) which was enacted in 1988 is about to be glimpsed by the farmers beneficiaries. As mandated to fulfill the intent of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program, to this end, a more equitable distribution and ownership of land is yet to mark a new beginning.

This noble piece of legislation aims to undertake to provide farmers and farmworkers with the opportunity to enhance their dignity and improve the quality of their lives through greater productivity and empowerment by virtue of land ownership.

The government is expected to be accountable in upholding the CARL, despite its many loopholes and limitations. NGOs and people's organizations in the Philippines will be ever-vigilant against the forces that impede agrarian reform while, at the same time, continuing to collaborate critically with government to expedite the implementation of CARP.

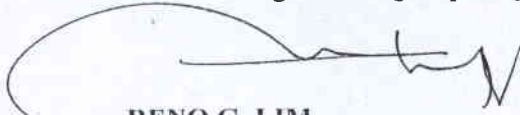
Agrarian reform requires a redistribution of political and economic power so that democratization, social justice and peace can be created. Ultimately, the struggle for a genuine agrarian reform lies beyond the implementation of CARP hence, the need to postpone the dawning of a new beginning.

The Program has to have a new lease --- time to preserve what has been arduously been brought into being. The DAR reported sufficient numbers of farmer beneficiaries. A great number of land areas are yet to be distributed. Agrarian Reform Communities (ARCs) has been created and post harvest facilities has yet to be installed to preserve the labors of the CARP that will eventually benefit majority of farmer beneficiaries.

There must be stronger political will on the side of the government and more involvement of all government line agencies and local government units in ensuring the implementation of the agrarian reform program and the security of its beneficiaries.

Let this representation breathe new life into extension of CARP that will place greater emphasis on tremendous potentials for both post harvest facilities and technologies and renewed policy on agriculture by providing irrigation and water conservation, rural infrastructure, credit, cooperative mechanisms and research development strategies. Let the members of this august chamber give the kiss of life to rural infrastructure that will pave the way towards building of farm-to-market roads, communal irrigation and water impounding systems.

It is in this light that urgent passage of this legislation is earnestly sought.



RENO G. LIM

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AN ACT  
STRENGTHENING FURTHER THE COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM (CARP) BY PROVIDING ADDITIONAL FUNDING AND AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE SECTIONS 63, AND 37 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6657, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE CARP LAW OF 1988' AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT 7905 AND REPUBLIC ACT 8532, THEREBY DIRECTING THE CONDUCT OF POST PROCESSES FOR A MORE EFFICIENT CARP IMPLEMENTATION AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

SECTION 1. SECTION 63 of RA 6657, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988, as amended by RA 8532, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SECTION 63. Funding Source. The initial amount needed to implement this Act until the year 2015, or an additional period of ten (10) years from the expiration of its period under the amendatory Republic Act No. 8532, shall be funded from the Agrarian Reform Fund.

“Additional amounts necessary for this purpose are hereby authorized to be appropriated in excess of the previous initial and augmentation funds, amounting to one hundred billion pesos (P100,000,000,000.00).

“The additional initial amount hereby authorized to be appropriated hereunder shall in no case exceed one hundred sixty-two billion pesos (P162,000,000,000.00).

“Sources of funding or appropriation shall include the following:

“(a) Proceeds of the sales of the Privatization Management Office (PMO), formerly Assets Privatization Trust (APT);

“(b) All receipts from assets recovered and from sales of ill-gotten wealth recovered through Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG);

“(c) Proceeds of the disposition of the properties of the government in foreign countries for the specific purposes of financing production credits, infrastructure and other support services required by this Act;

“(d) All income and collections of whatever kind and nature arising from the agrarian reform operations, projects and programs of the DAR and other implementing agencies of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program;

“(e) Portion of amounts accruing to the Philippines from all sources of official foreign aid grants, debt swaps and concessional financing from all countries, to be used for the specific purposes of financing, production, credit, infrastructures, and other support services required by this Act;

“(f) Yearly appropriations of not less than Three Billion Pesos (P3,000,000,000.00) from the General Appropriations Act;

“(g) Other government funds not otherwise appropriated.”

“SEC. 2. Section 37 of Republic Act No. 6657, known as the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988, on Support Services to the Beneficiaries, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SECTION 37. Support Services to the Beneficiaries. – The PARC shall ensure that support services to farmer beneficiaries are provided such as:

“(a) Land surveys and filling;

“(b) Liberalized terms on credit facilities and production loans. FOR THE PURPOSE, ALL FINANCING INSTITUTIONS SHALL ACCEPT AS COLLATERAL FOR LOANS ANY DULY REGISTERED EMANCIPATION PATENT (EP) OR

CERTIFICATE OF LAND OWNERSHIP AWARD (CLOA). WHETHER INDIVIDUAL OR COLLECTIVE ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM, TO FARMER BENEFICIARIES OF AGRARIAN REFORM, TO FARMER BENEFICIARIES OF AGRARIAN REFORM IN AN AMOUNT NOT LESS THAN SIXTY PERCENT (60%) OF ITS FACE VALUE, IN LIEU THEREOF WITH RESPECT TO AGRICULTURAL LEASEHOLD HOLDERS, ANY MARKET OR PURCHASE ORDER AND/OR EXPECTED HARVEST, SUPPORTED BY A DULY REGISTERED AGRICULTURAL LEASEHOLD CONTRACT: PROVIDED, THAT THE LOANS OBTAINED SHALL BE USED IN THE IMPROVEMENT OR DEVELOPMENT OF THE FARMHOLDING OF THE FARMER BENEFICIARY OR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FACILITIES THAT WILL ENHANCE PRODUCTION OR MARKETING OR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS OR INCREASE FARM INCOME THEREFROM.

“(c) Extension services by way of planting, cropping, production and post-harvest technology transfer, as well as marketing and management assistance and support to cooperatives and farmers organization.

“(d) Infrastructure such as access trails, mini-dams, public utilities, marketing and storage facilities; and

“(e) Research, production and use of organic fertilizers and other local substances necessary in farming and cultivation.

“The PARC shall formulate policies to ensure that support services to farmer-beneficiaries shall be provided at all stages of land reform.”

*SEC. 3.* All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

*SEC. 4.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following the completion of its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation which should not, however, be later than the first day of the expiration of the extended existence of the CARP.

*Approved.*