



Republic of the Philippines  
**DEPARTMENT of AGRARIAN REFORM**

**POSITION PAPER**

**SUBJECT : URGENCY OF THE PASSAGE OF A COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM (CARP) BILL FOR ITS CONTINUING IMPLEMENTATION**

Our basic and overarching Position is that agrarian reform is a continuing Program mandated by law and the Constitution which must be funded and fully implemented. More than a social justice provision, it is embodied as a State Policy in the highest law of the land. Sec. 21, Article 2 provides that "The State shall promote comprehensive rural development and agrarian reform." Accordingly, unless Sections 1 and 4, Article XIII of the 1987 Philippine Constitution are amended/abrogated, agrarian reform remains a constitutionally mandated continuing Program of the State.

The constitutional mandate laid down in Art. XIII (Sections 1 and 4) of the 1987 Constitution must be accorded utmost respect being a social justice provision, which is the very essence of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP), to wit:

*"SECTION 1. The Congress shall give highest priority to the enactment of measures that protect and enhance the right of all the people to human dignity, reduce social, economic, and political inequalities, and remove cultural inequities by equitably diffusing wealth and political power for the common good.*

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x x x x x

x x x x x


*SECTION 4. The State shall, by law, undertake an agrarian reform program founded on the right of farmers and regular farmworkers, who are landless, to own directly or collectively the lands they till or, in the case of other farmworkers, to receive a just share of the fruits thereof. To this end the State shall encourage and undertake the just distribution of all agricultural lands, subject to . . . reasonable retention limits and . . . payment of just compensation . . . (underscoring supplied)*

The latter provision essentially mandates the Legislative Branch to enact an enabling law for the full implementation of the Program in order that Social Justice be attained.

A law extending the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program is not only vital and urgent for the Department to have a fresh mandate. Its passage will allow the incorporation of essential reforms on the existing Agrarian Reform Laws to achieve the CARP stakeholders' clamor for genuine reform.

In view of the aforesaid reasons, the urgency of this Legislative Agenda, and the CARP being a constitutionally mandated continuing Program which must be funded and fully implemented, it is imperative for Congress to pass an enabling law before the end of 2008.

Given this 12<sup>th</sup> of November 2008 at Quezon City, Philippines.

  
**NASSER C. PANGANDAMAN**  
 Secretary

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