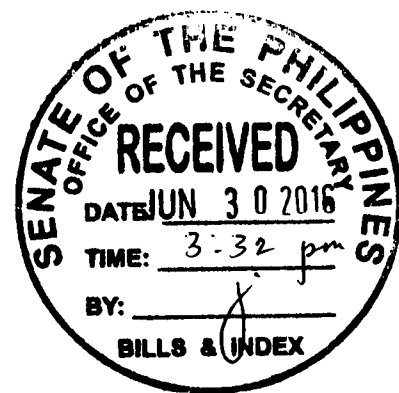


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



SENATE

S. B. No. 86

Introduced by Senator FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO

AN ACT
REVERTING TO THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT THE DISCHARGE OF BASIC
AGRICULTURAL FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES DEVOLVED TO LOCAL
GOVERNMENT UNITS AND AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO.
7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Congress is mandated under the law to undertake a mandatory review of Republic Act No. 7160 otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991.

In various consultations with concerned constituents nationwide, it has been determined that amendments to the Local Government Code of 1991 should be introduced to rationalized agricultural services.

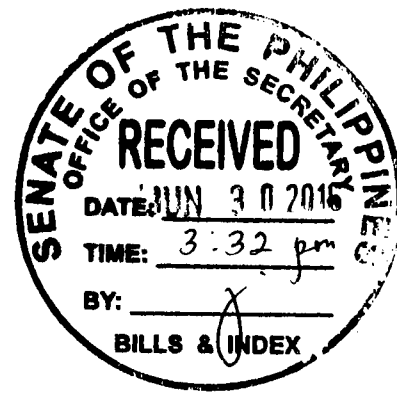
The recent passage of Republic Act No. 8435 otherwise known as the Agriculture Modernization Act of 1997 makes it imperative that the Department of Agriculture, the lead department tasked to implement the law, for its monitoring and data gathering requirements, shall have complete administrative control and supervision over all personnel in the field level that are involved in agriculture and fishery, in order to effectively implement and achieve the objectives of the Agriculture and Fisheries Law. More so, the DA devolved agricultural extension workers are a potent force that can be utilized to pole vault the country's present agricultural growth to fast growing agricultural-based economy.

Time and again, the government has always placed agricultural productivity as one of its priority and to address this thrust it is imperative to amend certain provisions of the Local Government Code for the effective and efficient implementation of its program thrusts.

With the above cited reasons, the urgent passage of this measure is earnestly requested.

FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO

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



SENATE

S. B. No. 86

Introduced by Senator FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO

AN ACT
REVERTING TO THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT THE DISCHARGE OF BASIC
AGRICULTURAL FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES DEVOLVED TO LOCAL
GOVERNMENT UNITS AND AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO.
7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Section 17 of the Republic No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local
2 Government Code of 1991, is hereby amended:

3
4 Section 1.1 The devolution of the basic services and facilities to the Barangay on
5 "Agricultural Support services which include planting materials distribution system
6 and operation of farm produce collection and buying station," is hereby withdrawn
7 from the Barangay and reverted back to the National Government. This amends
8 Section 17, item (b), No. (1), Par. 1 of the Local Government Code of 1991.
9

10 Section 1.2 The devolution of the basic services and facilities to the Municipality
11 on "Extension and on-site research services and facilities related to Agriculture and
12 Fisheries activities which include dispersal of livestock and poultry, fingerlings and
13 other seedlings materials for aquaculture; palay, corn and vegetable seed farms;
14 medicinal plant gardens; fruit tree, coconut and other kinds of seedling nurseries;
15 demonstration farms; quality control of copra and improvement and development of
16 local distribution channels, preferably through cooperatives; inter-barangay irrigation
17 system; water and soil resource utilization and conservation projects; and enforcement
18 of fishery laws in municipal waters including the conservation of mangroves" is hereby
19 withdrawn from the Municipality and reverted back to the National Government. This
20 amends Section 17, item (b), No. (2), Par. 1 of the Local Government Code of 1991.
21

22 Section 1.3 The devolution of basic services and facilities to the province on
23 "Agricultural extension and on-site research services and facilities which include the
24 prevention and control of pest and animal pest and diseases; dairy farms, livestock
25 markets, animal breeding station and artificial insemination centers, and assistance in
26 the organization of farmer's and fishermen's cooperative and other collective
27 organizations, as well as the transfer of appropriate technology," is hereby withdrawn
28 from the Province and reverted back to the National Government. This amends Section
29 17, item (b), No. (3), Par. 1, of the Local Government Code of 1991.
30

31 Section 1.4 The devolution of the basic services and facilities to the City "as
32 embodied in the same basic services and facilities for Municipality and Province,"
33 Section 17, Item (b), No. 2 and 3, Far 1, is hereby withdrawn from the city and reverted

1 back to the National Government. This amends Section 17, item (b), No. (4), Par 1 of
2 the Local Government Code of 1991.

3
4 **SECTION 2.** Accordingly all personnel, technicians, facilities and properties previously
5 transferred to the Barangay, Municipalities, Provinces and Cities shall be returned to the
6 National Government.

7
8 **SECTION 3.** The funds necessary to cover the implementation of these amendments
9 should be appropriated for agriculture and shall be provided for in the current General
10 Appropriations Act and the years thereafter.

11
12 **SECTION 4.** For the purpose of this Act, an Agriculture and Fisheries Review Panel is
13 hereby created to be composed of the following: the Secretary of Agriculture, as Chairman, the
14 Secretary of Interior and Local Government, the President of National Agriculture and Fishery
15 Council or their duly designated representatives, as members.

16
17 **SECTION 5.** The Agriculture and Fishery Review Panel in consultation with concerned
18 sectors in the field, shall identify the problems of the industry under the re-nationalization set-up
19 and recommend measures to enhance the agriculture productivity.

20
21 **SECTION 6.** All provisions of the Local Government Code of 1991 not inconsistent with
22 the foregoing amendments will remain in force and effect.

23
24 **SECTION 7.** This Act shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

25
26 *Approved,*