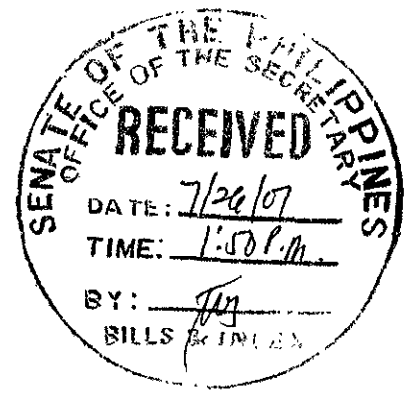


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

SENATE

PSR No. 45



Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE STATE OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM (CARP)

WHEREAS, Section 21 Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that the State shall promote comprehensive rural development and agrarian reform;

WHEREAS, to implement this State policy, Republic Act No. 6657, otherwise known as the "Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988", was enacted in 1988 to promote social justice and to move the nation towards rural development through a more equitable distribution and ownership of land;

WHEREAS, according to the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), a total of 3.8 million hectares of lands have been redistributed to 2.2 million agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) as of December 2006. The distributed lands constitute 86 percent accomplishment rate;

WHEREAS, a research study by the DAR and German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) titled "Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program: Scenarios and Options for Future Development" reveals that as of December 2004, rate of redistribution has been slowest in private agricultural lands under compulsory acquisition where only 16 percent of the 1.5 million hectares have been distributed;

WHEREAS, impact assessment studies conducted by various research organizations showed that ARBs fared better in terms of incomes and land productivity than non-ARBs. It was also observed that the socio-political stability in most areas where CARP has been implemented has improved;

WHEREAS, despite these reported achievements, the DAR-GTZ study noted that social and economic conditions in the rural communities at the macro-level are not any better than 10 years ago. While macro conditions and other policies related to rural development are contributing factors, there is a need to reassess the role of agrarian reform in overall rural development;

WHEREAS, the problem of ARBs selling their lands due to lack of available investments to make their farm lots productive has been widely recognized. There is also concern over the possibility of reconsolidation of lands by landowners because the ARBs sold the awarded lands to their former landowners or due to decisions on legal

cases on agrarian dispute. The DAR-GTZ study observed that currently, there is a lack of reliable data on land ownership making it difficult to determine the extent of reconsolidation;

WHEREAS, The implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) is scheduled to end by 2008 as provided for under Republic Act No. 6657, as amended by R.A. No. 8532;

WHEREAS, at present, there have been initiatives to extend the CARP. The President has already endorsed it during the 19th anniversary of CARP and has urged Congress to legalize the extension which proponents maintain will be consistent with the Constitutional provision of undertaking an agrarian reform program;

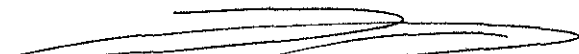
WHEREAS, the filing of various versions of bills in Congress seeking to make farmlands as collateral, and the ensuing policy debate on the matter during the Thirteenth Congress likewise reflect efforts to make CARP more responsive to the needs of ARBs;

WHEREAS, thus, there is an urgent need to critically analyze the relevance of CARP's major components and the effectiveness of its strategy to determine whether the purposes of the law has been accomplished and whether the same merits an extension through legislation;

WHEREAS, moreover, by virtue of its oversight functions, it is incumbent upon Congress to look into the state of implementation of CARP and ascertain whether it is necessary to introduce remedial measures to ensure that CARP remains relevant to the needs of ARBs and its intended benefits are achieved and sustained;

NOW BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, TO DIRECT THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE STATE OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM (CARP).

Adopted,



LOREN LEGARDA

Senator