

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

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P.S. Resolution No. 263

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Introduced by **SENATOR GREGORIO B. HONASAN II**

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RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEES ON AGRARIAN REFORM AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE ISSUES AND PROBLEMS WHICH PRE-EMPT AND UNDERMINE THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM (CARP) UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6657, CITING AS AN EXAMPLE, THE CASE OF SUMILAO FARMER-BENEFICIARIES AND THE MUNICIPALITY OF SUMILAO, BUKIDNON AND ITS PEOPLE, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF PROPOSING AN AMENDATORY LAW WHICH SHALL FURTHER STRENGTHEN AND ENSURE THE COMMON GOOD, GENERAL WELFARE AND PROTECTION OF THE FARMER-BENEFICIARIES' AND OTHER CONCERNED PARTIES' INTERESTS

**WHEREAS**, agrarian reform program, recognized as a "centerpiece of the government", is a social justice program with wonderful socio-economic and socio-political perspectives;

**WHEREAS**, the nation has recently witnessed the two-month "march for justice" campaign by the 55 Higaonon farmer-beneficiaries, as joined and supported by other peasant organizations nationwide who have continuously and unequivocally sought and demanded the revocation and/or cancellation of the Conversion Order of the contested 144 hectare Sumilao property from agricultural to agro-industrial land dated 29 March 1996, its redistribution to the Sumilao farmers under CARP, reform and extension of the CARP beyond 2008, and rationalization of land use policy to protect agricultural lands;

**WHEREAS**, on the other hand, envisioning to have a globally competitive agro-industrial economy, municipal government officials have welcomed the huge investment and major rural development project of piggery farm undertaken by the San Miguel Foods, Inc. (SMFI), as a significant stride towards the economic development of Sumilao, being a 4<sup>th</sup> Class Municipality, for income generation and creation of more job opportunities which would benefit and progress not only Sumilao but the entire Bukidnon Province;

**WHEREAS**, on December 18, 2007, as recommended by the DAR, the President through Executive Secretary Eduardo R. Ermita issued an Order under OP Case No. 06-L-430, granting the Petition for the Cancellation and/or Revocation of the Conversion Order Covering 144 hectares of Land at San Vicente, Sumilao, Bukidnon filed by MAPALAD against NQSR Management and Development Corporation and San Miguel Foods, Inc.;

**WHEREAS**, the case of Sumilao farmer-beneficiaries is just one of several well-known serious cases which highlights the sad plight of agrarian reform beneficiaries in the country due to land reform reversals, land use conversions and non-holding of CLOAs, among others;

**WHEREAS**, in its recent 272-page report on a critical review of CARP, the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), an international cooperation enterprise for sustainable development, operating in the country since 1971 on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), cited major issues and problems concerning CARP implementation such as failure to increase agricultural productivity, reduce rural poverty and landowner's investment in rural-based industries;

**WHEREAS**, the GTZ also reported that the DAR has concentrated mainly on land distribution without considering the viability and support services;

**WHEREAS**, the GTZ further reported that 26 percent of farmer-beneficiaries nationwide sold their lands; 66 percent of 3.1 Million agrarian reform beneficiaries have not been given support services; the Land Bank of the Philippines has not given any crop loan to agrarian reform beneficiaries because less than 17.8 percent of them cannot even pay for their monthly amortization on the purchase price of land; and neither was there enough funds to pay landowners;

**WHEREAS**, recognizing the present state of the said program and the parallel importance of its beneficiaries and general populace of the locality in the progress of the nation, immediate legislative action therefor is earnestly sought;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, to direct the Committees on Agrarian Reform and Local Government to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the issues and problems which pre-empt and undermine the effective implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) under Republic Act No. 6657, citing as an example, the case of Sumilao farmer-beneficiaries and the Municipality of Sumilao, Bukidnon and its people, with the end in view of proposing an amendatory law which shall further strengthen and ensure the common good, general welfare and protection of the farmer-beneficiaries' and other concerned parties' interests .

**Adopted,**

  
SEN. GREGORIO B. HONASAN II