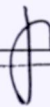


SENATE
S. No. 790

19 JUL 25 P 4:52

RECEIVED 

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS

AN ACT
AN ACT MANDATING THE COMPLETION OF THE LAND ACQUISITION AND
DISTRIBUTION (LAD) COMPONENT OF THE COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN
REFORM PROGRAM (CARP) PURSUANT TO REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6657,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM LAW",
AS AMENDED

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippine Constitution in Section 4, Article VITI, mandates that "(t)he State shall, by law, undertake an agrarian reform program founded on the right of farmers and regular farm workers, who are landless, to own directly or indirectly the land they till." The same section adds that, "the State shall encourage and undertake the just distribution of all agricultural lands, subject to such priorities and reasonable retention limits as the Congress may provide xxx."

There is great need to correct historical injustices against our farmers. For centuries, tillers of the soil have been bound to landowners in feudal arrangements that keep them impoverished and disempowered. When the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) was instituted in 1988, its main objective was to break this feudal arrangement and institutionalize a more equitable system for our farmers.

Indeed, there have been many problems in the implementation of land reform. Landowners have filed agrarian cases against farmers in order to impede the land acquisition process. The government has been bogged down by bureaucratic processes. The absence of support services post-distribution has led to outcomes that have not been welfare-enhancing. Many farmers have been forced to mortgage their land or enter into leaseback schemes.

And yet, it cannot be denied that CARP has worked more times than it has failed. While the struggle may at times have been contentious, when victorious, it can result in

farmers becoming productive owners of land - empowered drivers of their own destiny.

There is still more to be done, as there are still undistributed landholdings that need to be distributed. There are less than a million hectares that need to be distributed to farmers-beneficiaries. The purpose of this bill is to allow cases where there is an existing Notice of Coverage to proceed to finality even beyond the expiration of funding for the agrarian reform program. Considering the historical value of agrarian reform and its clear and documented impact on the lives and livelihoods of our farmers, this measure is of critical importance.


RISA HONTIVEROS

Senator



SENATE
S. No. 790

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AS AMENDED

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

1 Section 1. The land acquisition and distribution component of the comprehensive
2 agrarian reform program shall be completed within two years from the effectivity of this
3 act.
4 Sec. 2. Section 30 of Republic Act No. 9700 is hereby amended to read as
5 follows:
6 "Section 30. Issuance of Notices of coverage, acceptance of voluntary offer to sell and
7 resolution of cases and/or proceedings- the DAR shall continue to issue notices of
8 coverage and accept voluntary offers to sell by landowners of agricultural lands covered
9 by Republic Act no. 6657, as amended within two years from the effectivity of this act.
10 Such issuance of Notice of Coverage or acceptance of Voluntary Offer to Sell starts the
11 proceedings in the implementation of the provisions of Republic Act no. 6657, as
12 amended.
13 Any case and/or proceeding, as initiated by the Issuance of a Notice of Coverage or
14 Acceptance of a Voluntary Offer to Sell, involving the implementation of the provisions
15 of Republic Act no. 6657, as amended, which may remain pending [two years after the
16 effectivity of this act shall be allowed to proceed to its finality and be executed even
17 beyond such date."
18 Sec. 3. The funding source provided under Section 21 of Republic Act No. 9700
19 shall further be utilized from the effectivity of this Act until the complete acquisition and
20 distribution of all agricultural lands by the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program
21 (CARP).

1 Provided, that after the completion of the land acquisition and distribution component
2 of the CARP, the yearly appropriation shall be allocated fully to support services,
3 agrarian justice delivery and operational requirements of the DAR and the other CARP
4 implementing agencies.

5 Sec. 4. *Term of the Congressional Oversight Committee on Agrarian Reform*
6 *(COCAR)*. - The term of the COCAR shall end six (6) months after the expiration of the
7 effectivity of this act.

8 Sec. 5. *Repealing Clause*. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, issuances, rules
9 and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or
10 amended accordingly.

11 Sec. 6. *Separability Clause*. – If any provision of this Act is declared
12 unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, the other sections or provisions not affected
13 thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

14 Sec. 10. *Effectivity*. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days upon publication
15 in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,