

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

SENATE

Senate Bill No. 883

INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 6657, also known as the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law, Section 3 (c) defines agricultural land as "land devoted to agricultural activity and not classified as mineral, forest, residential, commercial or industrial land".

The comprehensive agrarian reform program is easily circumvented due to the very narrow definition of agricultural land which specifies that the land must be "devoted to agricultural activity". Also, lands already covered by the program are easily reclassified and converted into non-agricultural uses by simply allowing agricultural land to stay idle and non-productive even if irrigated or potentially irrigable.

This bill broadens the definition of agricultural land by including those lands which were previously devoted to agricultural activities but which were left idle by their owners and lands which are irrigated and potentially irrigable as defined by Administrative Order No. 20 of the President, Series of 1992.

In view of the foregoing, the early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.


JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator

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AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6657, ALSO KNOWN AS THE
COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM LAW, SECTION 3 (C)

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

SECTION 1. Section 3 (c) of Republic Act No. 6657 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 3. Definitions. - For the purpose of this Act, unless the context indicates otherwise:

XXX

(c) Agricultural Land refers to land devoted to agricultural activity as defined in this Act and not classified as mineral, forest, residential, commercial or industrial land, AND ALL THOSE PREVIOUSLY USED FOR AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN RECLASSIFIED INTO OTHER USES, PROVIDED, THEY ARE IRRIGATED OR POTENTIALLY IRRIGABLE LANDS WITH FIRM FUNDING COMMITMENTS FOR REHABILITATION.

SEC. 2. Separability Clause. - If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder or the law of the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 3. Repealing Clause. - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SEC. 4. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,