



Republic of the Philippines
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MEMORANDUM

FOR : **The Directors**
Legal Affairs Service
Policy and Planning Service
Climate Change Service

The Bureau Director
Land Management Bureau

The National Coordinator
DENR-CARP National Coordinating Office

FROM : **The Director**
Legislative Liaison Office

SUBJECT : **INVITATION FROM THE COMMITTEE ON AGRARIAN REFORM OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

DATE : 04 November 2022

The Committee on Agrarian Reform of the House of Representatives shall have a hybrid meeting on November 9, 2022 (Wednesday), at 9:30 AM via Zoom and simultaneously at the Andaya Hall, Second Floor, South Wing Building, House of Representatives, Quezon City. The main agenda is the presentation of the Draft Substitute Bill on the New Agrarian Emancipation Act for the consideration of the Committee.

The cited draft measure entitled: "AN ACT EMANCIPATING AGRARIAN REFORM BENEFICIARIES FROM THE DEBT BURDEN ARISING FROM THE AWARD OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS UNDER THE COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES," contains inputs from the Technical Working Group Discussions in consideration of the consolidated version of the following measures:

1. HB No. 2182, entitled: "An Act Condoning All Unpaid Amortizations, Interests, Penalties or Surcharges on Loans Secured Under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program and for Other Purposes," authored by Rep. Ralph G. Recto;
2. HB No. 2393, entitled: "An Act Providing for the Condonation of All Unpaid Principal, Interests, Penalties or Surcharges on Loans Under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program and for Other Purposes," authored by Rep. Bernadette "Dette" G. Escudero;
3. HB No. 2550, entitled: "An Act Granting the Department of Agrarian Reform Authority to Condone Debt Burdens of Farmers Who Are Beneficiaries of Republic Act No. 6657, Otherwise Known as the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988, as Amended by Republic Act No. 9700," authored by Rep. Robert Raymund M. Estrella;
4. HB No. 3409, entitled: "An Act Emancipating Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries by Condoning All Unpaid Amortizations and Interests on the Lands Awarded to them Under the Agrarian Reform Program," authored by Rep. Arnan C. Panaligan;

5. HB No.3434, entitled: “An Act Providing for the Condonation of All Unpaid Interests, Penalties, and Surcharges on Loans Secured by Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program and for Other Purposes,” authored by Rep. Jaime R. Fresnedi;
6. HB No. 3490, entitled: “An Act Condoning All Unpaid Amortizations, Interests, Penalties or Surcharges on Loans Secured Under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program and for Other Purposes,” authored by Rep. Wilbert T. Lee;
7. HB No. 3787, entitled: “An Act Providing for the Condonation of Unpaid Amortizations and Interests of Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries on Lands Awarded Under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program and for Other Purposes,” authored by Rep. Solomon R. Chungalao;
8. HB 3797, entitled: “An Act Emancipating Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries from Debt Through the Free Award of Agricultural Lands Under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program, Appropriating Funds Therefor, and for Other Purposes,” authored by Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda;
9. HB No. 4333, entitled: “An Act Promoting the Emancipation of Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries from the Debt Burden through the Free Award of Agricultural Lands under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program, Appropriating Funds Therefor, and for Other Purposes,” authored by Rep Angelo Marcos Barba;
10. HB No. 5126, entitled: “An Act Condoning all Unpaid Amortizations, Interests, Penalties or Surcharges on Loans Secured Under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program, and for Other Purposes,” authored by Rep. Alfred Delos Santos; and
11. HB No. 5206, entitled: “An Act Writing Off all Land Amortizations Including Interests and Emancipating Farmers and Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries and Providing Support Services Thereof,” authored by Reps. Arlene Brosas, France Castro and Raoul Danniell Manuel

In this regard, your or your representative’s attendance at the mentioned meeting is requested as the agenda will deliberate on a bill that is of significance to your mandates.

Attached herewith is the invitation letter and for your perusal the copies of the House bills which can be accessed through this link <https://bit.ly/3NyxW46>.

Your attendance is highly encouraged.


ROMIROSE B. PADIN

cc: Undersecretary for Legal, Administration, Human Resources and Legislative Affairs
Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs
Assistant Secretary for Administration and Legislative Affairs



*Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila*

October 27, 2022

SEC. MA. ANTONIO YULO-LOYZAGA
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
DENR Bldg., Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

Dear **Yulo-Loyzaga**,

The Committee on Agrarian Reform has scheduled a **Hybrid Committee Meeting** on **November 9, 2022 (Wednesday), 9:30 A.M** at the **Andaya Hall, Second Floor, South Wing Building, House of Representatives, Quezon City**. The main Agenda is the presentation of the **Draft Substitute Bill on the New Agrarian Emancipation Act** for the consideration of the Committee.

The cited draft measure entitled: “AN ACT EMANCIPATING AGRARIAN REFORM BENEFICIARIES FROM THE DEBT BURDEN ARISING FROM THE AWARD OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS UNDER THE COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,” contains inputs from the Technical Working Group Discussions in consideration of the consolidated version of the following measures:

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In this regard, we would like to invite you to participate in the said hearing to respond to queries from Committee Members and Authors that may arise relative to concerns that are under the jurisdiction of your agency/sector in relation to the Draft Substitute Bill.

For invitees who are outside Metro Manila, please join us through the Zoom link as follows:

Meeting ID: 872 1838 7790

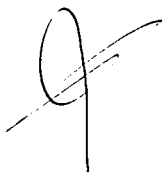
Passcode: 508150

Kindly inform the Technical Staff on or before November 04, 2022 (Friday), if you wish to join the discussions physically, through face-to-face interactions so that technical/health requirements, such as antigen testing, entry to the House premises and other administrative requirements can be processed accordingly.

For inquiries, you may communicate with the Committee Technical Staff through email addresses: committee.agrarianreform@house.gov.ph and horagrarianreform@gmail.com and telephone no. 89316888 / 89315001 local 7140, or cellphone nos. 09177817127, 09178480590, 09178482065 and 09175863544.

Thank you and we look forward to your participation in this endeavor.

Very truly yours,



REP. SOLOMON R. CHUNGALAO

Chairperson

Committee on Agrarian Reform



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila
19th Congress
First Regular Session

COMMITTEE ON AGRARIAN REFORM
November 9, 2022 (Wednesday)
Hybrid Meeting

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Invocation
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Acknowledgment of Guests and Resource Persons
- V. Preliminary Remarks of the Chair
- VI. Presentation for the consideration of the Committee:

Draft Substitute Bill with incorporated inputs from the Technical Working Group Discussions, entitled: "AN ACT EMANCIPATING AGRARIAN REFORM BENEFICIARIES FROM THE DEBT BURDEN ARISING FROM THE AWARD OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS UNDER THE COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES," in consideration of the consolidated version of the following measures:

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- VII. Other Matters
- VIII. Adjournment

1 Republic of the Philippines
2 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
3 Quezon City

4
5 NINETEENTH CONGRESS
6 First Regular Session

7
8 HOUSE BILL NO. _____
9

10 (In Substitution of House Bills Numbered 2182, 2393, 2550, 3409, 3434, 3490, 3787,
11 3797, 4333, 5126, and 5206)
12

13
14 INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES SOLOMON R. CHUNGALAO, RALPH G.
15 RECTO, MARIA BERNADETTE G. ESCUDERO, ROBERT RAYMUND M. ESTRELLA,
16 ARNAN C. PANALIGAN, JAIME R. FRESNEDI, WILBERT T. LEE, JOEY SARTE
17 SALCEDA, ANGELO MARCOS BARBA, ALFRED C. DELOS SANTOS, ARLENE D.
18 BROSAS, FRANCE L. CASTRO, RAOUL DANNIEL A. MANUEL, AND KRISTINE
19 SINGSON-MEEHAN
20

21
22 AN ACT
23 EMANCIPATING AGRARIAN REFORM BENEFICIARIES FROM THE DEBT BURDEN
24 ARISING FROM THE AWARD OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS UNDER THE
25 COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES
26

27 *Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in*
28 *Congress assembled:*
29

30
31 SECTION. 1. *Short Title.* - This shall be known as the "New Agrarian Emancipation Act".
32

33 SEC. 2. *Condonation of the Agrarian Reform Debt.* - The existing loan of Agrarian
34 Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs) due to unpaid amortization or interest shall be condoned
35 and written off. All unpaid amortizations and interests, including penalties or surcharges,
36 if any, due from loans secured under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program
37 (CARP) or from other agrarian reform programs or laws are hereby condoned by the
38 Government, relieving all ARBs from the payment thereof, thereby repealing Section 26
39 of Republic Act No. 6657, as amended, Section 6 of Executive Order No. 228, series
40 of 1987, as well as the pertinent provisions of other agrarian reform laws. *Provided*
41 *That*, the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) shall thereafter issue, whenever
42 necessary, a Certificate of Condonation which shall be annotated on the Emancipation
43 Patent (EP), Certificate of Land Ownership Award (CLOA), or on any other title based
44 on the applicable agrarian reform law. *Provided further*, That condonation as provided
45 herein shall lift all mortgage liens in favor of the National Government, as represented
46 by the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), attached to the land acquired. *Provided*
47 *finally*, That such condonation shall be in accordance with the applicable banking laws
48 and regulations of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.
49

50 Sec. 3. Section 27 of RA 6657, as amended is hereby further amended to read as
51 follows:

1
2 "Sec. 27. *Transferability of Awarded Lands.* - Lands acquired by beneficiaries
3 under this Act or other Agrarian Reform Laws shall not be sold, transferred or
4 conveyed except through hereditary succession, or to the government or to the
5 LBP, or to other qualified beneficiaries through the DAR for a period of Ten (10)
6 years; Provided, However, That the children or the spouse of the transferor shall
7 have a right to REDEEM the land from the Government or LBP within the period
8 of two (2) years. Due notice to the availability of the land shall be given by the
9 LBP to the BARC of the barangay where the land is situated. The PARCCOM, as
10 herein provided, shall, in turn, be given due notice thereof by the BARC."

11
12 "The title of the land awarded under the agrarian reform must indicate that it is an
13 emancipation patent or a certificate of land ownership award and the subsequent
14 transfer title must also indicate that it is an emancipation patent or a certificate of
15 land ownership award."

16
17 "The rights to the land may only be transferred or conveyed, with prior approval
18 of the DAR. Failing compliance herewith, the transfer shall be invalid."

19
20 **SEC. 4. *Termination of Payment of Compensation by ARBs Under Voluntary Land***
21 ***Transfer and Direct Payment Schemes.*** – The Government shall substitute the ARBS on
22 their financial obligation to pay the value of the awarded land to the landowners acquired
23 under the voluntary land transfer and direct payment schemes, thereby amending
24 Section 20 of Republic Act No. 6657, as amended. Payment of the remaining balance of
25 the compensation due the concerned landowners under the voluntary land transfer and
26 direct payment schemes, if any, shall be paid by the Government from the Agrarian
27 Reform Fund through the LBP.

28
29 **SEC. 5. *Free Land Distribution to ARBs.*** - ARBs who are still to receive their awarded
30 lands under the CARP or any other agrarian reform program or laws shall do so without
31 any obligation to pay any amortization. All private agricultural lands covered under the
32 CARP or any other agrarian reform program or laws that have not been distributed at the
33 time of the effectivity of this Act, shall be distributed at no cost to the qualified
34 beneficiaries.

35
36 **SEC. 6. *Broadened Scope of Support Services to Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries under***
37 ***the CARP.*** - In addition to the support services available to the ARBs under Section 37 of
38 R.A. No. 6657, as amended, the DAR, together with the Presidential Agrarian Reform
39 Council (PARC), shall ensure that support services and assistance indispensable to
40 agricultural productivity and resiliency, enterprise development, and financial literacy of
41 the ARBs, as well as the need for sustenance, dwelling, clothing, medical assistance,
42 education, transportation, among others, of such beneficiaries and their families, shall
43 be provided. Any form of support services rendered by any banking or financial institution
44 for the benefit of the beneficiaries and their families shall be deemed a form of support
45 under the Agrarian Reform Program thereby amending Section 37 of Republic Act No.
46 6657, as amended.

47
48 This Section is without prejudice to the support services available to ARBs from other
49 National Government Agencies, and shall not be construed as alternative compliance to
50 Republic Act No. 10000 otherwise known as the Agri-Agra Reform Credit Act of 2009,
51 as amended.

52
53 **SEC. 7. *Preference to Credit Facilities and Support Services for Beneficiaries with Paid***
54 ***Amortizations.*** - ARBs who have completed payment of the amortization schedule and

1 the payment of interest charges under Section 26 of Republic Act No. 6657, as
2 amended, Section 6 of Executive Order No. 228 of 1987, and other agrarian reform laws
3 shall be given preference in the provision of support services and access to credit
4 facilities.

5
6 **SEC. 8. *Estate Tax Amnesty Extension for Beneficiaries with Paid Amortizations.*** –
7 ARBs who have paid any portion of the amortization schedule and interest charges
8 under Section 26 of Republic Act No. 6657, as amended, and other agrarian reform laws
9 prior to the effectivity of this Act shall be entitled to an Estate Tax Amnesty until June 30,
10 2025. The agrarian reform lands of such beneficiaries may, as estates, enjoy the
11 immunities and privileges of Estate Tax Amnesty and pay an estate amnesty tax at the
12 rate of six percent (6%) based on the decedent's total net estate at the time of death:
13 *Provided That*, if an estate tax return was previously filed with the Bureau of Internal
14 Revenue, the estate tax rate of six percent (6%) shall be based on the net undeclared
15 estate.

16
17 The provision of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended, or the
18 applicable estate tax laws prevailing at the time of death of the decedent, on valuation,
19 manner of computation, and other related matters shall apply suppletorily, at the time of
20 the entitlement: *Provided further*, That, if the allowable deductions applicable, at the time
21 of death of the decedent exceeded the value of the gross estate, the heirs, executors,
22 or administrators may avail of the benefits of tax amnesty under this Section, and pay
23 the minimum tax amnesty of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00).

24
25 The Department of Interior and Local Government shall also encourage local
26 government units to enact Local Tax Amnesties on real property taxes and other transfer
27 taxes of qualified ARBs under this Section.

28
29 **SEC. 9. *Issuance of Agrarian Reform Title.*** - The proper Registry of Deeds shall register
30 the Emancipation Patent, the Certificate of Land Ownership Award, or any other title
31 based on the applicable agrarian reform law within sixty (60) days from the issuance of
32 the title in the name of the Republic of the Philippines. It shall likewise annotate the Notice
33 of Condonation on all the affected EPs, CLOAs, or any other titles based on the
34 applicable agrarian reform law within sixty (60) days from its issuance by the DAR.

35
36 **SEC. 10. *Restitution of the Agrarian Reform Award Forfeited Solely due to Non-Payment***
37 ***of Annual Amortization and Interest.*** - Any pending administrative or judicial case
38 involving the forfeiture by the DAR of the agrarian reform award solely due to the failure
39 of an ARB to pay the thirty (30)-year amortization plus six percent (6%) annual interest
40 shall immediately be dismissed *motu proprio*, by the office or the court. The execution of
41 a final and executory administrative or judicial case decision due to the failure of an ARB
42 to pay the 30-year amortization plus 6% annual interest resulting in the disqualification
43 of the ARB, the cancellation of the agrarian reform title, the extinguishment of the rights
44 of possession and ownership of the awarded land, as well as the removal of the person
45 from the awarded land or the dismantling of any improvements found therein, shall be
46 immediately terminated, the agrarian reform award immediately restored, and the
47 forfeiture of decision accordingly reversed. Any agrarian reform title cancelled as a result
48 of the final and executory administrative or judicial case decision shall immediately be
49 reconstituted. In the event that the agricultural land has already been awarded to another
50 beneficiary, the DAR shall as far as equitable award another land to the disqualified ARB.

51
52 **SEC. 11. *Disqualification of Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries due to Acts and Omissions***
53 ***Constituting Violations of Agrarian Reform Laws.*** - Any person convicted by final
54 judgment of any of the prohibited acts and omissions under Sec. 73 and meted any

1 of the penalties under Sec. 74 of RA. No. 6657, as amended, is disqualified to avail of
2 the benefits under this Act. Disqualification also results for any determination by final
3 judgment that the ARB, in violation of Sec. 22 of R.A. No. 6657, as amended, willfully
4 refused to make the awarded land as productive as possible or deliberately neglected or
5 abandoned the awarded land continuously for a period of two (2) calendar years.
6 Provided, That non-cultivation of the land due to non-installation of the ARBs, threats by
7 other stakeholders or entities, lack of facilities and support services, or situations or
8 conditions beyond the control of the ARBs not due to their fault or actuations shall not
9 be considered as either neglect, abandonment, or grounds for disqualification.

10
11 To this effect, the DAR shall thoroughly investigate and revalidate allegations that will
12 constitute disqualification under this Section, in a manner that will be construed liberally in
13 the favor of the ARBs.

14
15 SEC. 12. *Right of the Landowner to Just Compensation.* - It is indispensable that a
16 landowner whose land has been acquired and distributed to qualified beneficiaries under
17 the CARP is paid just compensation. Nothing herein shall diminish the right of
18 landowners to be justly compensated for their agricultural lands acquired under the said
19 program.

20
21 SEC. 13. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The DAR, in coordination with the
22 Executive Committee of the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council (PARC ExCom), with
23 the technical assistance of the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), shall, within sixty
24 (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, formulate the necessary Implementing Rules
25 and Regulations.

26
27 SEC. 14. *Agency Support.* - All other government offices and agencies are directed to
28 render such prompt and necessary assistance, subject to applicable laws, rules and
29 regulations, to fully implement the provisions of this Act.

30
31 SEC. 15. *Funding.* - The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be
32 charged against the Agrarian Reform Fund, as certified by the Bureau of Treasury, and the
33 inclusion thereof in the Annual General Appropriations Act shall be subject to the existing
34 budgeting process, rules and regulations, and subsequent authorization by Congress.

35
36 SEC. 16. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, executive orders, issuances or parts thereof
37 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified
38 accordingly.

39
40 SEC. 17. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the
41 remainder of this Act or any provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and
42 effect.

43
44 SEC. 18. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
45 *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

46 Approved,