

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 114

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Introduced by REP. TEDDY BRAWNER BAGUILAT

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution mandates the State to undertake an agrarian reform program founded on the right of farmers to own directly or collectively the lands they till. Towards this end the State shall encourage and undertake the just distribution of all agricultural lands. Congress thus enacted Republic Act 6657, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL) on 10 June 1988, which initially targeted to distribute agricultural lands over a period of ten (10) years through the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

After 10 years of CARP implementation in 1998, the Land Acquisition and Distribution (LAD) component of the program was not yet completed. Thereafter, Congress passed Republic Act 8532 to augment the funding for CARP until June 2008.

By 2008, studies have shown that the CARP has made a positive impact on the lives of agrarian reform beneficiaries, especially those in established Agrarian Reform Communities who have experienced significantly higher farm incomes. Still by June 2008, around 1.2 million hectares still needed to be covered and distributed to agrarian reform beneficiaries. Hence, Congress passed Republic Act 9700 otherwise known as the CARPER law, extending the LAD for another five years or until 30 June 2014.

As of February 2014, the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) reported to the House Committee on Agrarian Reform that 790,671 hectares of agricultural lands remain to be covered under CARP. Additionally, there are still approximately 283,473 hectares of agricultural lands without Notices of Coverage (NOCs) as of January 2014. These lands are mostly large landholdings under compulsory acquisition or 10 hectares and below.

Sec. 63 of R.A. 6657, as amended, also appropriated Php 150 Billion for the LAD from the Agrarian Reform Fund. But as of December 2013, a reported Php 25 Billion is left to fund the LAD beyond 30 June 2014. After the completion of the LAD, the yearly appropriation shall be allocated fully to support services, agrarian justice delivery and operational requirements of the DAR and other CARP implementing agencies.

At the Agrarian Reform committee hearing last 05 March 2014, the DAR categorically expressed that they will not be able to finish all Notices of Coverage (NOCs) for the said hectarage by 30 June 2014. The DAR declared that they recommend the filing of an amendment of Sec. 30 of R.A. 9700 to continue the issuance of NOCs beyond 30 June 2014 to complete the targets for CARP coverage. Thus, a House Bill No. 4296 was filed pursuant to DAR's plea. However, it was unfortunate that the 16th Congress was not able to pass such an important measure.

It is Congress' responsibility to provide the policy environment to ensure that the agrarian reform program fulfill its promise of giving land to the tillers as enshrined in the 1987 Constitution.

Therefore, in order to fulfill the mandate of the Constitution on social justice, this bill is filed to continue and complete the land acquisition and distribution component of the CARP.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of the bill is urged.



TEDDY BRAWNER BAGUILAT
Representative, Lone District of Ifugao

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
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House Bill No. 114

Introduced by **Rep. Teddy Brawner Baguilat**

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

AN ACT

MANDATING THE COMPLETION OF THE LAND ACQUISITION AND DISTRIBUTION (LAD) COMPONENT OF THE COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM (CARP) BY ~~JUNE 30, 2014~~ PURSUANT TO REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6657, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM LAW", AS AMENDED

SECTION 1. The land acquisition and distribution component of the comprehensive agrarian reform program shall be completed by ~~June 30, 2014~~ WITHIN TWO YEARS FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT.

SEC. 2. Section 30 of Republic Act No. 9700 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 30. ISSUANCE OF NOTICES OF COVERAGE, ACCEPTANCE OF VOLUNTARY OFFER TO SELL AND Resolution of Cases AND/OR PROCEEDINGS. - THE DAR SHALL CONTINUE TO ISSUE NOTICES OF COVERAGE AND ACCEPT VOLUNTARY OFFERS TO SELL BY LANDOWNERS OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS COVERED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6657, AS AMENDED [WITHIN TWO YEARS FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT] UNTIL ~~JUNE 30, 2014~~. SUCH ISSUANCE OF NOTICE OF COVERAGE OR ACCEPTANCE OF VOLUNTARY OFFER TO SELL STARTS THE PROCEEDINGS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6657, AS AMENDED

Any case and/or proceeding, AS INITIATED BY THE ISSUANCE OF A NOTICE OF COVERAGE OR ACCEPTANCE OF A VOLUNTARY OFFER

TO SELL, involving the implementation of the provisions of Republic Act No. 6657, as amended, which may remain pending on ~~June 30, 2014~~ [TWO YEARS AFTER THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT] shall be allowed to proceed to its finality and be executed even beyond such date.”

SEC. 3. The funding source provided under Section 21 of Republic Act No. 9700 shall further be utilized from the effectivity of this Act until the complete acquisition and distribution of all agricultural lands covered by the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

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

SEC. 4. Term of the Congressional Oversight Committee on Agrarian Reform (COCAR).
- The term of the COCAR shall end six (6) months after [THE EXPIRATION OF THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT].

SEC. 5. Repealing Clause. - All other laws, decrees, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations, or part thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby likewise repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 6. Separability Clause. - If, for any reason, any section or provisions of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 7. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days upon publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.