

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

13th CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4253

Introduced by **Honorable Clavel Asas-Martinez**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Bill seeks to impose a moratorium on land distribution under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988 and to set aside the funds presently allotted for Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program to be used for livelihood for land already distributed to make them productive.

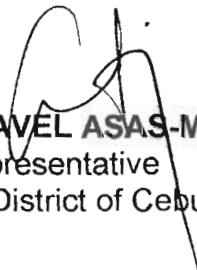
Republic Act No. 6657 otherwise known as the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988 pursued for the distribution to farmers and regular farm workers who are landless of (a) all alienable domains devoted to or suitable for agriculture, (b) all lands owned by the Government devoted to or suitable for agriculture and (c) all private lands devoted to or suitable for agriculture. This was strengthened further by Republic Act 8532 which provided for the augmentation of funds. However, there is no proper program management as to the sustainability and productivity of the agricultural land being distributed to farmers. Moreover, as in any form of farming, the waiting period is always a problem, and which causes difficulties to small scale farmers who do not have other alternatives while waiting for harvest. Besides, it must also be noted the difficulty of allocating for capital to five (5) or six (6) hectares of land that is given to landless farmers.

Nonetheless, like the experience of other landowners, there is a sense of irresponsibility on the part of some farmers who benefited from Agrarian Reform Law. Some landless farmers, after receiving land titles, sold out the farmland to other buyers and not to the original landowners, instead of cultivating it themselves for agricultural production and livelihood. The original landowners, on the other hand, were left to a losing end.

Since the outbreak of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law until now, thousands of hectares have already been distributed. However, there is still no sign of agricultural prosperity and increase in agricultural production to meet the

demanded consumption of the people. In this regard, the Philippines must learn from the experience of its neighboring countries, like Taiwan, that used to have agrarian reform program but did not turn out to be successful, and instead converted the agricultural lands into industrial lands.

There is a need to impose a moratorium on land distribution to landless farmers and to re-channel the allotted funds for Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) to finance livelihood programs for lands already distributed. It is in the interest of the welfare of the farmers and the country's expansion in agricultural production at large that the immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



CLAVEL ASAS-MARTINEZ
Representative
4th District of Cebu

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

13th CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4253

Introduced by **Honorable Clavel Asas-Martinez**

AN ACT
SEEKING TO IMPOSE A MORATORIUM ON LAND DISTRIBUTION UNDER
THE COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM LAW OF 1988 AND
TO SET ASIDE APPROPRIATED FUNDS FOR THE CARP
TO FINANCE LIVELIHOOD PROGRAMS TO MAKE LANDS
ALREADY DISTRIBUTED PRODUCTIVE

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

Section 1. There is hereby a moratorium on land distribution under Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

Section 2. The Department of Land Reform should set aside the fund presently allotted for land distribution and use the fund to finance livelihood programs for land already distributed to make them productive.

Section 3. The Department of Land Reform shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

Section 3. All laws, decrees, orders, proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Section 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,