

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

13th Congress
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5698



Introduced by Representative ABRAHAM KAHLIL B. MITRA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The agrarian reform program is a constitutionally sanctioned act of the State pursuant to national policies. In its recognition of the political, economic, social, and spiritual value of land, the State is obligated to ensure the effectivity and responsiveness of the comprehensive agrarian reform program.

The comprehensive agrarian reform program will end in 2008; a fact that is causing serious apprehension that cuts across the various stakeholders of the program. Without the necessary funding to support the various aspects of the comprehensive agrarian reform program, it is feared that the constitutionally mandated comprehensive agrarian reform program itself will have to cease.

From data gathered by the Department of Agrarian Reform and by various non-governmental organizations, it is clear that the comprehensive agrarian reform program established by Republic Act No. 6657 is not yet fully completed. Because there is a need to fully attain the goals of the program, this Bill hereby supports its continuation and provides for the necessary legislative proposal with regard thereto.

This Bill seeks to promote a sustainable Comprehensive Agrarian Reform program even beyond the 2008 budgetary deadline imposed by Republic Act 8532. This goes with a reason that it is not enough for the State to distribute lands; the State must ensure that these lands continue to be productive and/or economically viable and that the beneficiaries be given access to the support mechanism that can make this possible in order for the gains of CARP to be sustained.

This Bill also recognizes the fact that Agrarian Reform Communities (ARC) contribute greatly to the progress of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program. When the beneficiaries work together, they are able to sustain productive lands and successful economic ventures, especially when their efforts are supported through relevant government interventions.

The budgetary deadline set in 2008 and the pressing concerns from various stakeholders of the comprehensive agrarian reform program set the atmosphere of serious necessity for the passage of this Bill.

The approval of this Bill is earnestly sought.


ABRAHAM KAHLIL B. MITRA
2nd District of Palawan

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HOUSE BILL NO. 5698

Introduced by Representative ABRAHAM KAHLIL B. MITRA

AN ACT

STRENGTHENING FURTHER THE COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM (CARP) BY PROVIDING AUGMENTATION FUND, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE SECTIONS 2, 36, AND 63 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6657, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “THE CARP LAW OF 1988” AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT 7905 AND REPUBLIC ACT 8532, DIRECTING THE CONDUCT OF A PROCESS FOR CARP IMPACT VALIDATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

3
4 SECTION 1. Section 2 of Republic Act No. 6657, otherwise known as the
5 “Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988,” is hereby amended to read as follows:

6
7 “Section 2. *Declaration of Principles and Policies.* - It is the policy of the State to
8 pursue a **SUSTAINABLE** Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).
9 The welfare of the landless farmers and farm workers will receive the highest
10 consideration to promote social justice and to move the nation towards sound
11 rural development and industrialization, and the establishment of owner
12 cultivatorship of economic-sized farms as the basis of Philippine agriculture. **A**
13 **SUSTAINABLE COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM SHALL**
14 **INCLUDE A SUFFICIENT, EFFICIENT, AND IMPROVED SYSTEM FOR THE**
15 **DELIVERY OF SUPPORT SERVICES TO THE FARMERS, FARM WORKERS**
16 **AND LANDOWNERS, AS WELL AS COOPERATIVES AND OTHER**
17 **INDEPENDENT FARMERS' ORGANIZATION.**

18
19 “**TO REALIZE THE GOALS AGRARIAN REFORM**, a more equitable distribution
20 and ownership of land, with due regard to the rights of landowners to just
21 compensation and to the ecological needs of the nation, shall be undertaken to
22 provide farmers and farm workers with the opportunity to enhance their dignity
23 and improve the quality of their lives through greater productivity of agricultural
24 lands. X X X

1
2 SECTION 2. Section 36 of Republic Act No. 6657 as amended by Section 2 of Republic
3 Act No. 7905 is hereby further amended to read as follows:
4

5 "SEC. 36. Funding for Support Services. - In order to cover the expenses and
6 cost of support services, at least [twenty-five percent (25%)] **FIFTY PERCENT**
7 **(50%)** of all appropriations for agrarian reform shall be immediately set aside and
8 made available for this purpose: Provided, That **FROM 2009 AND** for the next
9 five (5) years **THEREAFTER**, a minimum of [one (1)] **THREE (3)** Agrarian
10 Reform Community (ARC) shall be established by the DAR **PER YEAR**, in
11 coordination with the local government units, non-governmental organizations
12 and people organizations in each legislative district with a predominant
13 agricultural population: Provided, further, That the areas in which the ARCs are
14 to be established shall have been fully subjected under this law.
15

16 "For this purpose, an Agrarian Reform Community shall be defined as a
17 barangay or a cluster of barangays primarily composed and managed by
18 Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries who shall be willing to be organized and
19 undertake the integrated development of an area and/or their organizations/
20 cooperative. In each community, the DAR, together with the agencies and
21 organizations abovementioned, shall identify the farmers association,
22 cooperative or their respective federation approved by the farmers-beneficiaries
23 that shall take the lead in the agricultural development of the area. In addition,
24 the DAR shall be authorized to package proposals and receive grants, aid and
25 other forms **GRATUITOUS** of financial assistance from any source."
26

27 SECTION 3. Section 63 of Republic Act No. 6657, as amended by Republic Act 8532, is
28 further amended to read as follows:
29

30 "Section 63. *Funding source.* — **UNTIL THE YEAR 2013**, the initial amount
31 needed to implement [is Act until the year 2008B the **AGRARIAN REFORM**
32 **PROGRAM DESCRIBED AND DEFINED IN THIS ACT**, shall be funded from the
33 Agrarian Reform Fund, with an initial amount of fifty billion pesos
34 (P50,000,000,000.00), as provided for under Sections 20 of Executive Order
35 (EO) No. 229.
36

37 "Additional [amounts] **FUNDS** necessary for [this purpose] **PROGRAM**
38 **IMPLEMENTATION**, are hereby authorized to be appropriated [in excess of the

1 initial funds] **IN ORDER TO AUGMENT THE INITIAL FUNDS AS PROVIDED**
2 **UNDER ABOVE-MENTIONED EXECUTIVE ORDER.**

3
4 "The additional amount hereby authorized to be appropriated shall in no case
5 exceed [Fifty billion pesos (P50,000,000,000.00)] **ONE HUNDRED BILLION**
6 **PESOS (P100 BILLION).**¹

7
8 "Sources of funding or appropriations shall include the following:

- 9
10 "a) XXX;
11 "b) XXX;
12 "c) XXX;
13 "d) XXX;
14 "e) XXX;
15 "f) Yearly appropriations of no less than [Three] **FIVE** billion pesos
16 [(P3, 000, 000,000.00)] **P5,000,000,000.00** [from] **THROUGH**
17 the General Appropriations Act;
18 "g) XXX."

19
20 **SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION FOR 2009-2013. -- THE AMOUNT OF FIFTY**
21 **BILLION PESOS (P50,000,000,000.00) IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO BE APPROPRIATED**
22 **TO COVER THE FUNDING REQUIREMENTS OF THE CARP FOR THE YEARS 2009-2013,**
23 **WHICH AMOUNT IS INCLUDED IN THE AUGMENTATION FUND OF ONE HUNDRED**
24 **BILLION PESOS (P100,000,000,000.00) UNDER SECTION 3 OF THIS ACT.**

25
26
27 **SECTION 5. OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE. – AN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE IS HEREBY**
28 **CREATED COMPOSED OF THREE (3) REPRESENTATIVES EACH FROM THE SENATE AND**
29 **THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THREE (3) EACH FROM THE DAR, DA AND THE**
30 **DENR TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN AND ENSURE THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE**
31 **AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM. THE COMMITTEE SHALL MEET ONCE EVERY YEAR TO**
32 **SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THEIR**
33 **EVALUATION AS TO THE PERFORMANCE OF THE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM.**
34

¹ Inclusive of the fifty billion (P 50 B) authorized to be appropriated under Republic Act No. 8532 (of 1998)

1 THE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MAY HIRE COMPETENT CONSULTANTS FOR
2 MONITORING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CONCERNS RELATED TO THE
3 ACCOMPLISHMENT AND IMPACT VALIDATION OF THIS ACT.
4

5 THE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE SHALL BE PROVIDED WITH THE NECESSARY
6 FUNDS TO CARRY OUT ITS DUTIES.
7

8 SECTION 6. *Separability.* -- Any portion or provision of this Act that may be declared
9 unconstitutional shall not have the effect of nullifying other portions or provisions hereof, as long
10 as such remaining portions or provisions can still subsist and be given effect in their entirety.
11

12 SECTION 7. *Effectivity.* -- This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from the
13 completion of its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.
14

15 *Approve,*