

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **7843**



Introduced by **MAGDALO Party-List Representative**
HON. GARY C. ALEJANO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 20 of R.A. 7160 otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991 vests on the Local Government Unit the authority to approve land conversions.

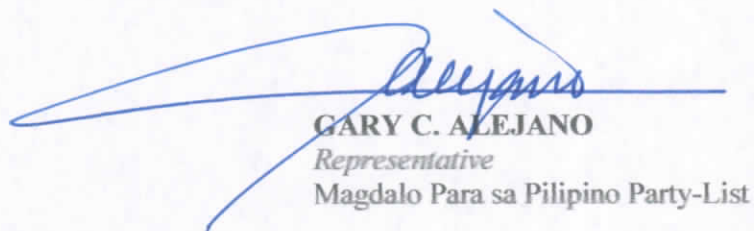
The abovementioned provision, however is problematic in a sense that it has caused or has allowed for the brazen and hapless conversion of many productive agricultural lands into residential, commercial, industrial or for any other purpose, therefore dispossessing our much maligned farmers of agricultural lands they would have been able to cultivate.

Such acts not only have an adverse impact on our farmers, but to the country's food security situation as well. What was once a flourishing agricultural sector, able to provide for the country's self-sufficient food supply and weather food crises, has been almost eradicated for the sake of indiscriminate construction projects that have, at best, a negligible impact on the wellbeing of Filipino communities.

It is therefore the determination of this representation to tip the scale between agriculture and rapid industrialization to its proper balance by amending section 20 of R.A. 7160 to require the additional approval of the Department of Agrarian Reform before a land conversion application can be granted.

If passed, the amendment would rationalize the application process regarding land conversion and uphold the fundamental directive of the Government to provide food security to our people.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this measure is earnestly sought.


GARY C. ALEJANO
Representative
Magdalo Para sa Pilipino Party-List

1 following percentage of the total existing agricultural area, at the time of the passage of the
2 ordinance.”

3
4 **SEC. 3. *Penalties.***—Failure of the concerned local government units to abide by the
5 provisions of this Act within their respective jurisdictions shall be grounds for disciplinary action,
6 as provided for in Section 60 of R.A. 7160.

7
8 **SEC. 5. *Separability Clause.***—If any section or provision of this Act shall be held
9 unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions not otherwise affected shall remain
10 valid.

11
12 **SEC. 6. *Effectivity.***—This Act shall take effect immediately upon approval.

Approved,