

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9857



Introduced by **HON. LUIS RAYMUND “LRAY” F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**

AN ACT
EXEMPTING FARMER COOPERATIVES AND ASSOCIATIONS ENGAGED IN THE
TRADE OF ORGANIC FERTILIZERS FROM PAYMENT OF REGISTRATION,
LICENSING FEES AND ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES, GRANTING AMNESTY
FOR PREVIOUS VIOLATIONS OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE 1144 AND
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE 1144

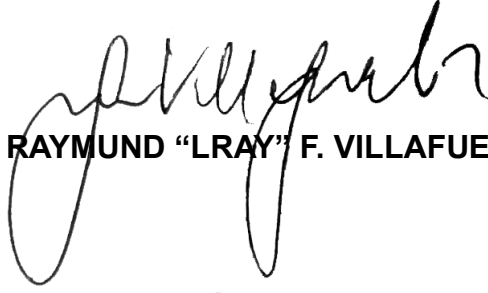
The growing trend and preference for organic produce necessitates improved regulation for the safety of the consuming public. Local demand for traditional organic fertilizers has increased in the past few years. With the rise of such demand, a number of our farmers and their families have established cooperatives or associations trading in organic fertilizers.

However, these organic fertilizers may not be compliant with the mandates of PD 1144, which requires the registration of fertilizers offered for sale with the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA).

In order to encourage farmer cooperatives and associations engaged in the trade of organic fertilizers to submit to the jurisdiction of the FPA, this proposed bill offers an amnesty to be filed with the FPA with a corresponding application for the necessary license and registration of the organic fertilizers that they are already selling;.

This proposed bill likewise seeks to exempt farmer cooperatives and associations engaged in the domestic sale or trade of organic fertilizers from payment of registration fees, license fees and other administrative charges imposed by the FPA.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


LUIS RAYMUND “LRAY” F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.

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

Section 1. Section 9-A is hereby inserted to Presidential Decree 1144, as follows.

SECTION 9-A. EXEMPTION FOR FARMER COOPERATIVES AND ASSOCIATIONS ENGAGED IN THE TRADE OF ORGANIC FERTILIZERS. – FARMER COOPERATIVES AND ASSOCIATIONS ENGAGED IN THE DOMESTIC SALE OR TRADE OF ORGANIC FERTILIZERS SHALL BE EXEMPT FROM PAYMENT OF REGISTRATION FEES, LICENSE FEES AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES IMPOSED BY THE FERTILIZER AND PESTICIDE AUTHORITY.

THE FPA SHALL PROMULGATE GUIDELINES FOR THE SCREENING OF FARMER COOPERATIVES AND ASSOCIATIONS ENTITLED TO EXEMPTIONS UNDER THIS ACT.

Sec. 2. *Amnesty.* – To encourage farmer cooperatives and associations engaged in the trade of organic fertilizers to submit to the jurisdiction of the FPA, they shall file with the FPA a request for amnesty and apply for the necessary license and registration of the organic fertilizers that they are already selling; Provided, However, that the request for amnesty shall be filed within two (2) years from the effectivity of this Act.

The amnesty shall not be denied unless said farmer cooperative or association has been previously warned in writing by the FPA and persisted to do business without the requisite license and registration.

Sec. 3. *Information Dissemination.* Upon the approval of this Act, the FPA shall engage in extensive information dissemination campaign to all farming communities all over the country.

Sec. 4. *Appropriations.* – An additional budget of Fifty Million Pesos (P50,000,000.00) to cover administrative costs in the implementation of the amendments herein is hereby appropriated.

Sec. 5. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, and other issuances, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 6. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof shall not be affected thereby.

Sec. 7. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,