

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2712



Introduced by

HON. YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ
and
HON. JUDE A. ACIDRE

AN ACT
REVERTING TO THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT THE DISCHARGE OF BASIC AGRICULTURAL FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES DEVOLVED TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Upon the enactment of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, the provision of basic services was devolved to the local government units – agricultural support services were transferred to the barangays, the extension and on-site research services and facilities related to agriculture and fishery activities was transferred to the municipalities, and all the services and facilities of the municipalities and province, and in addition thereto, the adequate communication and transportation facilities were transferred to the cities. However, the devolution of basic agricultural services resulted in low agricultural productivity, hampered agricultural development, and food insecurity due to the gap between the devolved responsibilities and the financial and human resources available.

Thus, this bill seeks to revert to the national government, particularly to the Department of Agriculture (Department), the discharge of basic agricultural functions and responsibilities which were devolved to the local government units pursuant to the Local Government Code of 1991. The Department should be given full power and

authority to implement the agricultural programs, policies, rules, and regulations efficiently, effectively, and uniformly across the country.

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



Rep. YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ
Representative, Tingog Sinirangan



Rep. JUDE A. ACIDRE
Representative, Tingog Sinirangan

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

Section 1. *Short Title.* This act shall be known as the "Renationalization of Basic Agricultural Functions Act of 2022."

Section 2. *Renationalization.* Section 17 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, is hereby amended:

Section 1.1 The devolution of the basic services and facilities to the Barangay on "Agricultural Support services which include planting materials distribution system and operation of farm produce collection and buying station," is hereby withdrawn from the Barangay and reverted back to the National Government. This amends Section 17, item (b), No. (1), Par. 1 of the Local Government Code of 1991.

Section 1.2 The devolution of the basic services and facilities to the Municipality on "Extension and on-site research services and facilities related to Agriculture and Fisheries activities which include dispersal of livestock and

poultry, fingerlings and other seedlings materials for aquaculture; palay, corn and vegetable seed farms; medicinal plant gardens; fruit tree, coconut and other kinds of seedling nurseries; demonstration farms; quality control of copra and improvement and development of local distribution channels, preferable through cooperatives; inter-barangay irrigation system; water and soil resource utilization and conservation projects; and enforcement of fishery laws in municipal waters including the conservation of mangroves" is hereby withdrawn from the Municipality and reverted back to the National Government. This amends Section 17, item (b). No. (2), Par. 1 of the Local Government Code of 1991.

Section 1.3 The devolution of basic services and facilities to the province on "Agricultural extension and on-site research services and facilities which include the prevention and control of pest and animal pet and diseases; dairy farms, livestock markers, animal breeding station and artificial insemination centers, and assistance in the organization of farmers' and fishermen's cooperative and other collective organizations, as well as the transfer of appropriate technology." is hereby withdrawn from the Province and reverted back to the National Government. This amends Section 17, item (b), No. (3), Par. (1), of the Local Government Code of 1991.

Section 1.4 The devolution of the basic services and facilities to the City "as embodied in the same basic services and facilities for Municipality and Province," Section 17, Item (b), No. 1 and 3, Par. (1), is hereby withdrawn from the city and reverted back to the national Government. This amends Section 17, item (b), No. (4), Par. (I) of the Local Government Code of 1991.

Section 3. *Transfer of assets.* Accordingly, all personnel, technicians, facilities, and properties previously transferred to the Barangays, Municipalities, Provinces, and Cities shall be returned to the National Government.

Section 4. *Appropriations.* The funds necessary to cover the implementation of these amendments should be appropriated for agriculture and shall be provided for in the current General Appropriations Act and the years after.

Section 5. *Agriculture and Fisheries Review Panel.* For the purpose of this Act, an Agriculture and Fisheries Review Panel is hereby created to be composed of the following: the Secretary of Agriculture, as Chairman; the Secretary of Interior and Local Government, the Director of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, and the Director of the Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries, or their duly designated representatives, as members.

The Agriculture and Fishery Review Panel in consultation with concerned sectors in the field, shall identify the problems of the industry under the re-nationalization set-up and recommend measures to enhance the agriculture productivity.

Section 6. *Separability Clause.* If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other sections or provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Section 7. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 8. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,