

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5314



Introduced by Representative Richard I. Gomez

EXPLANATORY NOTE

To ensure food security for our nation, we cannot be concerned about food production without being concerned about the plight of our farmers. Agriculture is not only an integral part of our economy but more importantly, it is one of the backbone industries that contribute to Filipinos' most basic daily needs.

It has been over thirty years since the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Act, yet many agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) still struggle to pay off all the amortization required to transfer titles in their names. In fact, many of the ARBs face the real possibility of losing the very land that they have tilled for decades; more so losing their farm land towards the very end of the thirty-year payment period.

The last decade has seen various highs and lows in national and global economies, which have affected our farmers' production and incomes in recent years. Indeed, the reasons for payment defaults are extensive, and mostly a case to case basis. But we have to see the agrarian reform loan repayments beyond just the regular real property loans. These loans represent the success or failure of the country's agrarian reform program. If there is one thing that is certain, it is that our country will be better off with the success of agrarian reform.

Hence, this bill is proposed to grant full condonation of all unpaid amortizations payable by ARBs. The enactment of this bill would guarantee the success of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program and show full support for Filipino farmers.

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

RICHARD I. GOMEZ, DPA

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House Bill No. **5314**

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AN ACT GRANTING FULL CONDONATION OF ALL UNPAID AMORTIZATIONS OF BENEFICIARY FARMERS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6657, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM LAW OF 1988, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9700

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* - This Act shall be known as the “*Full Condonation of Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Act of 2022.*”

SEC. 2. *Full Condonation of Amortizations of Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs).* – The Department of Agrarian Reform shall condone, in full, all unpaid monthly amortizations, including all principal and interest payments, payable by agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) pursuant to Sec. 26 of R.A. No. 6657, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988, as amended by R.A. No. 9700, are hereby condoned in full.

Agrarian reform beneficiaries yet to be awarded a Certificate of Land Ownership Award (CLOA), if any, shall be awarded their land without obligation for amortization.

SEC. 3. *Release of Lien on the Land Awarded to the Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs).* — Pursuant to the full condonation as provided in Section 2 of this Act, the Land Bank of the Philippines shall cancel all liens on the lands awarded to the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs).

SEC 4. *Cessation of Foreclosure Proceedings.* — The Land Bank of the Philippines shall cease all foreclosure proceedings against delinquent beneficiaries or beneficiaries who have unpaid monthly amortizations with interests that are already pending pursuant to Section 26 of

R.A. 6657, as amended by R.A. No. 9700. Pending foreclosure cases against such ARBs shall be deemed closed.

All such delinquent ARBs shall be restored to their original status, as if no delinquency has been incurred.

SEC 5. *Coverage.* — Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs) whose properties had been foreclosed prior to the enactment of this Act shall not benefit from this Act. Moreover, the benefits of this Act shall accrue to the qualified beneficiary who has been subsequently awarded with the land after foreclosure proceedings on the original beneficiary or beneficiaries were conducted.

SEC. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), in coordination with the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council (PARC) and the LBP, shall provide the necessary implementing rules and regulations within thirty (30) days upon the approval of this Act.

SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.* — If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not so declared shall remain in force and in effect.

SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.* — Any other law, issuance or part thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. *Effectivity Clause.* — This Act shall take fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,