

TWENTIETH CONGRESS)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez and
Representative Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr.*

House Bill No. **2158**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 7607 or the Magna Carta of Small Farmers was enacted to give the “highest priority to the development of agriculture such that equitable distribution of benefits and opportunities is realized through the empowerment of small farmers”.

It also provides that it is the policy of the State to provide the necessary support mechanism towards the attainment of their socioeconomic endeavors.

Climate change is a threat that disproportionately disadvantages smallholder farmers worldwide. It negatively affects smallholder farmers and leads to increased food insecurity and land degradation. The State has to come up with programs that would support smallholder farmers with implementing adaptation initiatives on their farmland and programs that would help our farmers transition to sustainable agricultural practices.

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


RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ


MAXIMO B. RODRIGUEZ, JR.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez and
Representative Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr.*

House Bill No. **2158**

AN ACT

AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7607, ENTITLED AN ACT PROVIDING A MAGNA CARTA OF SMALL FARMERS”

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

SECTION 1. Section 4 of Republic Act 7607 is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph:

(28) “ARABLE LAND AREA OF A SMALLHOLDER FARMER” MEANS LAND MEASURING ANYWHERE BETWEEN 0.1-15 HECTARES.

SEC 2. Section 8 of Republic Act 7607 is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph:

(12) PARTICIPATE IN THE PRESERVATION OF THE PHILIPPINE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES SUCH AS, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, AGROFORESTRY, TO ENCOURAGE RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE.

SEC 3. Section 9 (2) of Republic Act 7607 is hereby amended to read as follows:

(2) Aim for increased productivity through the use of recommended SUSTAINABLE FARM practices and quality inputs;

SEC 4. Section 24 of Republic Act 7607 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 24. Income-generating Activities. — Small farmers shall be encouraged to engage in other income-generating activities to supplement their farm income. National agencies, in collaboration with local government units, shall provide technical and skills training assistance through farmers' organizations, and shall also be tasked to provide marketing assistance to small farmers. THESE INCLUDE PARTICIPATION IN CLIMATE MITIGATION ACTIVITIES SUCH AS CARBON PROJECTS THAT GUARANTEE BENEFIT SHARING TO SMALLHOLDER FARMERS OF AT LEAST 50% OF THE AGGREGATE ANNUAL CARBON REVENUES. ANY PROJECT THAT DOES NOT COMPLY WITH FAIR AND EQUITABLE PAYMENTS TO FARMERS SHALL BE SUBJECT TO PENALTIES AND TERMINATION.

SEC 5. Separability Clause. – If, for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, parts or provisions of this Act which are not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC 6. Repealing Clause. – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, Implementing Rules and Regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC 7. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,