

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



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez

House Bill No. **3827**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Congress is mandated under the law to undertake a mandatory review of Republic Act No 7160 otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991.

In various consultations with concerned constituents nationwide, it has been determined that amendments to the Local Government Code of 1991 should be introduced to rationalized agricultural services.

The passage of Republic Act No. 8435, otherwise known as the Agriculture Modernization Act of 1997, makes it imperative that the Department of Agriculture (DA), in connection with its monitoring and data gathering requirements, shall have complete administrative control and supervision over all personnel in the field level that are involved in agriculture and fishery in order to effectively implement and achieve the objectives of the Agriculture and Fisheries Law. The Department of Agriculture is the lead department tasked to implement the law.

Furthermore, the present administration has placed agricultural productivity as one of its priority and to address this thrust it is imperative to amend certain provisions of the Local Government Code for the effective and efficient implementation of its programs.

With the above cited reasons, the urgent passage of this Measure is earnestly requested.


RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ

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AN ACT

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

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

SECTION 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include planting materials distribution system and operation of farm produce collection and buying stations" is hereby withdrawn from the Barangay and reverted back to the National Government.

SEC 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 fishery activities which include dispersal of livestock and poultry, fingerlings, and other seedling 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, preferably through cooperatives; interbarangay 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.

SEC 3. The devolution of the basic services and facilities to the Province on "Agricultural extension and on-site research services and facilities which include the prevention and control of plant and animal pests and diseases; dairy farms, livestock markets, animal breeding stations, and artificial insemination centers; and assistance in the organization of farmers and fishermen's cooperatives, 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.

SEC 4. All similar basic services and facilities devolve to the City are hereby likewise withdrawn and reverted back to the National Government.

SEC 5. The pertinent provisions of Republic Act 7160 otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, particularly Section 17, are hereby amended accordingly.

SEC 6. Accordingly all personnel, technicians, facilities and properties previously transferred to the Barangay, Municipalities, Provinces and Cities shall be returned to the National Government.

SEC 7. The funds necessary to cover the implementation of these amendments shall be appropriated for agriculture and shall be provided for in the current General Appropriations Act and the years thereafter.

SEC 8. 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 President of National Agriculture and Fishery Council or their duly designated representatives as members.

SEC 9. 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 setup and recommend measures to enhance the agriculture productivity.

SEC 10. All provisions of the Local Government Code of 1991 not inconsistent with the foregoing amendments will remain in force and effect.

SEC 11. Separability Clause. - If any provision or section of this Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the other provisions or sections of this Act, in the application of such provision or section to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected thereby.

SEC 12. Repealing Clause. - All acts or parts of acts and executive orders, administrative orders, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed.

SEC 13. This Act shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

Approved,