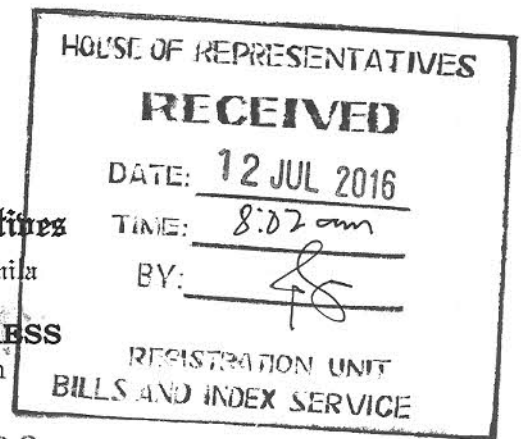




Republic of the Philippines  
**House of Representatives**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session



House Bill No. 1396

Introduced by **Honorable ERLPE JOHN "PING" M. AMANTE**

### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Consistent with the policy of the State to ensure the availability, adequacy, accessibility of food supplies to every Filipino at all times and to promote food security, particularly rice supply as mandated by Republic Act No. 8435 otherwise known as the "*Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act of 1997*", this Bill seeks to impose a Fifteen (15) - Year Moratorium on the conversion of all irrigated and irrigable lands covered by irrigation projects.

In compliance with this goal of the government towards Rice Self-Sufficiency, different programs and support to rice farmers were launched in order to attain this purpose. This can be gleaned from massive financial and institutional support to rice farmer sector. The Department of Agriculture has introduced ranges of options for raising rice production to meet the domestic consumption requirements and to minimize importation which will lead our country towards rice self-sufficient nation.

The National Government through the Department of Agrarian Reform is still fulfilling its mandate to balance the opportunity for the landless by the distribution of lands to qualified farmer-beneficiaries. However, in the pace of industrialization, rampant land conversion from agricultural to non-agricultural purposes such as industrial and residential among others which resulted to massive loss of lands devoted to agricultural production particularly in the rice sector.

It is towards this end that the State should devise effective mechanism to balance the necessity to preserve agricultural land for rice production and other agriculture-related activities and the unrelenting pace of industrialization.

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

  
**ERLPE JOHN "PING" M. AMANTE**



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**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
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**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING FOR FIFTEEN (15) YEAR MORATORIUM**  
**ON THE PROCESSING AND APPROVAL OF APPLICATION FOR CONVERSION**  
**OF ALL IRRIGATED AND IRRIGABLE LANDS COVERED BY IRRIGATION**  
**PROJECTS.**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives in session assembled:*

**Section 1.** *Declaration of Policy-* It is the policy of the State that to ensure the availability, adequacy, accessibility of food supplies to every Filipino and to promote food security, including sufficiency in our staple food, particularly rice supply; there should be an effective mechanism in maximizing the full potential of lands for agricultural production.

**Section 2.** *Definition of Terms-* as used in this Act, the following term shall mean:

- (a) **"Irrigated Land"** - refers to land serviced by natural irrigation or irrigation facilities. This includes lands where water is not readily available because existing irrigation facilities need rehabilitation or upgrading or where irrigation water is not available year-round.
- (b) **"Irrigable Land"** - refers to land displaying marked characteristics justifying the operation of an irrigation system and which the government or other private institutions have funding commitment or plan.
- (c) **"Processing and Approval"** - refers to the processing and approval of the application for conversion with the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) for

conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural purposes as provided in the provision of Executive Order 129-A Series of 1987.

- (d) **“Conversion Moratorium”** - refers to the prohibition on conversion of all irrigated lands and irrigable lands already covered by irrigation projects with firm funding commitments.

**Section 3. *Moratorium on Land Conversion-*** The Department of Agrarian Reform and the Department of Agriculture are hereby mandated to impose a Fifteen (15) Year Moratorium on the processing and approval of application for conversion of all irrigated and irrigable land covered by irrigation projects.

**Section 4. *Repealing Clause-*** All laws, rules and regulations, decrees, executive orders and administrative orders or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Acts are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**Section 5. *Separability Clause-*** If any part or provision of this Act shall be held invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

**Section 6. *Effectivity Clause-*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspaper of general circulation.

**Approved,**