



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 681

Introduced by MAGSASAKA Party-list Representative
ARGEL JOSEPH T. CABATBAT

1 **A RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE ON AGRARIAN REFORM TO**
2 **INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE ALLEGED INACTION OF THE**
3 **DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM (DAR) IN CERTAIN LAND ACQUISITION**
4 **AND DISTRIBUTION PROCESSES**

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6
7 **WHEREAS**, under Section 4 of Article XIII of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, "The
8 State shall, by law, undertake an agrarian reform program founded on the right of farmers
9 and regular farmworkers who are landless, to own directly or collectively the lands they till or,
10 in the case of other farmworkers, to receive a just share of the fruits thereof. To this end, the
11 State shall encourage and undertake the just distribution of all agricultural lands, subject to
12 such priorities and reasonable retention limits as the Congress may prescribe, taking into
13 account ecological, developmental, or equity considerations, and subject to the payment of
14 just compensation";

15
16 **WHEREAS**, this right is further enshrined in the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law
17 of 1988 where, "The welfare of the landless farmers and farmworkers will receive the highest
18 consideration to promote social justice and to move the nation toward sound rural
19 development and industrialization, and the establishment of owner cultivatorship of economic-
20 size farms as the basis of Philippine agriculture";

21
22 **WHEREAS**, following the 2018 data of the Philippine Statistics Authority, 87.92% of
23 total land area under CARP has been already distributed;

1 **WHEREAS**, despite this rate of success claim, a significant number of ARBs,
2 cooperatives, and agrarian reform communities (ARCs) have expressed their frustration and
3 dismay in the delay and inaction of concerned agencies supervising the land acquisition and
4 distribution processes;
5

6 **WHEREAS**, our constituents in Negros Occidental alone have reported cases of delays
7 of Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to deliver appropriate action on their concerns
8 including (a) up to 15-year delay of issuance of resolutions and directives on conflicts
9 concerning ARBs, (b) inaction in areas with Notice of Coverage and identified qualified ARBs,
10 and (c) failure to uphold the resolution of Presidential Agrarian Reform Council (PARC) on
11 certain agribusiness venture agreements (AVAs) that have affected 1,756 ARBs;
12

13 **WHEREAS**, these pending cases are contradictory to the mandate given to DAR
14 under Section 50 of CARP which provides that the said agency has the authority to resolve all
15 matters of agrarian reform and those involving its implementation. The law further provides
16 that DAR "shall not be bound by technical rules of procedure and evidence but shall proceed
17 to hear and decide all cases, disputes or controversies in a most expeditious manner,
18 employing all reasonable means to ascertain the facts of every case in accordance with justice
19 and equity and the merits of the case. Toward this end, it shall adopt a uniform rule of
20 procedure to achieve a just, expeditious and inexpensive determination of every action or
21 proceeding before it.";
22

23 **WHEREAS**, no less than President Rodrigo Roa Duterte avowed to take an aggressive
24 stance on the government's pursuit to award and distribute lands, and to help improve the
25 lives of our farmers and farmworkers by strengthening their access to provision of support
26 services;
27

28 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**,
29 that the Committee on Agrarian Reform is urged to investigate, in aid of legislation, the alleged
30 inaction of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in certain land acquisition and
31 distribution processes

Adopted,


ARGEL JOSEPH T. CABATBAT
MAGSASAKA Party-List