



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



Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 178

Introduced by

Honorable DAVID "Jay-Jay" C. SUAREZ and
Honorable ANNA MARIE VILLARAZA-SUAREZ

**RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION
BY THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ON THE EXCLUSION OF AGRICULTURALLY VIABLE PARCELS OF LAND IN
SARIAYA, QUEZON FROM IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPREHENSIVE
AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the 1987 Constitution expressly recognized the rights of farmers and landless regular farmworkers to own directly or collectively the lands they till, or receive a just share of the fruits thereof;

WHEREAS, the State is mandated by the very same Constitution to undertake a reform program, by virtue of its power of eminent domain, and the just distribution of all agricultural lands, subject to such priorities and reasonable retention limits, taking into consideration ecological, development, or equity considerations;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 6657, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988 (CARP), provides for a more equitable distribution and ownership of land, with due regard to the rights of landowners to just compensation and to the ecological needs of the nation;

WHEREAS, CARP shall observe the principles of agrarian reform or stewardship whenever applicable, in accordance with law, in the disposition or utilization of other natural resources, including lands of public domain, under lease or concession, suitable to agriculture, subject to prior rights, homestead rights of small settlers and the rights of indigenous communities to their ancestral lands;

WHEREAS, CARP covers all alienable and disposable lands of the public domain devoted to or suitable for agriculture;

WHEREAS, certain parcels of land in Sariaya, Quezon subject of litigation between the farmers-beneficiaries Ugnayan Ng Magsasaka sa Gitnang Quezon (Sariaya), among others, who are owners of the Certificates of Land Ownership Award (CLOA), and the Ellice Agro-Industrial Corporation, were ordered excluded from the coverage of the CARP for being classified as non-agricultural land prior to the enactment of CARP;

WHEREAS, the said parcels, however, were being devoted to and suitable for agriculture and as such, considered covered by CARP, and were actually tilled by the said farmers years prior CARP whose rights were strengthened by the subsequent grant of CLOAs to them;

WHEREAS, excluding such parcels of land is contrary to the aims of the CARP and prejudicial to the rights of the farmers and farmworkers whose rights to land are constitutionally protected;

WHEREAS, there is a need to revisit the implementation of the CARP law to confirm its intentions, assure the attainment of its objectives, and protect the interests of the farmers, landless farmworkers, and the landowners as well.

THEREFORE, be it resolved as it is hereby resolved that the House of Representatives conduct an investigation in aid of legislation to determine whether non-agricultural land which are agriculturally viable and are actually utilized for agricultural purposes be excluded from the implementation of the CARP.

Adopted,

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ANNA MARIE VILLARAZA-SUAREZ
ALONA Partylist