

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

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
1ST Regular Session

House Bill No. **2697**

Introduced by **REP. MAXIMO B. DALOG**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

RECEIVED

DATE: 09 AUG 2016

TIME: 10:20 am

BY: peti

REGISTRATION UNIT
BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act 8371, otherwise known as the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997 (IPRA) was a landmark legislation intended to address the concerns of the Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples throughout the country.

Section 12 of the (IPRA) law states that "individual members of cultural communities, with respect to their individually-owned ancestral lands who by themselves or through their predecessors-in-interest, have been in continuous possession and occupation of the same in the concept of owner since time immemorial or for a period of not less than 30 years immediately preceding the approval of this Act and uncontested by the same members of the same ICC/IPs shall have the option to secure title to their ancestral lands under the provisions of Commonwealth Act 141, as amended, or the Land Registration Act 496. For this purpose, said individually-owned ancestral lands, which are agricultural in character and actually used for agricultural, residential, pasture, and tree-farming purposes, including those with a slope of eighteen percent (18%) or more, are hereby classified as alienable and disposal agricultural land. The option granted under this section shall be exercised within twenty (20) years from the approval of this Act."

Considering that the afore-cited provision of RA 8371 was never implemented because the concerned national agencies of government, the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) did not seasonably come up with a specific IRR to implement the same, we the indigenous peoples never benefited from the benevolent provisions of said section.

Considering finally, that the 20-year prescriptive period provided for will expire one (1) year, three (3) months and twenty (20) days from this date, it is imperative that the efficacy/effectivity of the said section 12 of RA 8371 be extended for another 20 years upon the expiration of the first period if we are to give meaning to the intents and purposes of the said law.

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


MAXIMO B. DALOG

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2697

AN ACT EXTENDING THE PERIOD FOR INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES/INDIGENOUS PEOPLES TO EXERCISE THE OPTION TO SECURE TITLE TO THEIR ANCESTRAL LANDS UNDER LAND REGISTRATION ACT 496, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 12 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8371, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE RIGHTS ACT OF 1997".

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

Section 1. The option to secure a Certificate of Title under Commonwealth Act 141, as amended, or the Land Registration Act 496 as provided for under Section 12 of Republic Act No. 8371 is hereby extended for another twenty (20) years effective upon the expiration of the first period.

Sec. 2. This Act shall effect fifteen(15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,