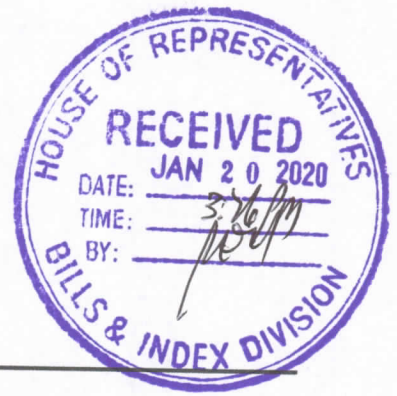


Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session



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**COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 197**

Submitted by the Committee on Agrarian Reform on JAN 20 2020

Re: House Bill No. 3029

Recommending its approval without amendment.

Sponsors: Representatives Solomon R. Chungalao, Wilter "Sharky" Wee Palma II and Tyrone D. Agabas

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Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Agrarian Reform to which was referred House Bill No. 3029 introduced by Representative Wilter "Sharky" Wee Palma, entitled:

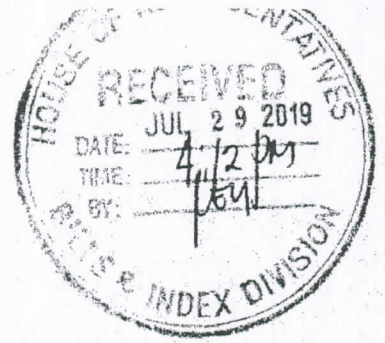
AN ACT PENALIZING THE CONVERSION OR CAUSING THE  
CONVERSION OF IRRIGATED AND IRRIGABLE LANDS,  
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6657,  
AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE COMPREHENSIVE  
AGRARIAN REFORM LAW OF 1988

has considered the same and recommends its approval without amendment, with Representatives Wilter "Sharky" Wee Palma II, Solomon Chungalao and Tyrone D. Agabas as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted:

SOLOMON R. CHUNGALAO  
Chairperson  
Committee on Agrarian Reform

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
QUEZON CITY



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

**EIGHTEENTH (18<sup>th</sup>) CONGRESS**  
*1<sup>st</sup> Regular Session*

**HOUSE BILL NO. 3029**

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Introduced by **Hon. WILTER "SHARKY" WEE PALMA II**

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### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Growth in the agricultural sector has been often coined as an effective measure that is utilized for poverty reduction. In fact, proper food security initiatives increase the ability of countries to develop their agricultural sectors and protect the overall health of one's economy. With this, successful food security programmes would not only be able to give aid toward rural populations but also would result to ample opportunities to market their goods for the purposes of improving their quality of life.

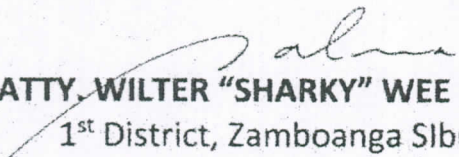
In the case of the Philippines, Republic Act No. 6657 otherwise known as the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988 is a prime example of legislation that aims to address food and security. Under the said Act, farmers are expected to own land which they would then utilize not only as a mean to provide food for their families but also their fellow citizens. However, the same law allows for the conversion of agricultural land should the land cease to be serve its purpose, or in some cases those lands are converted into residential, commercial, and industrial sites.

As a result, agricultural lands as well as irrigated and irrigable lands have been greatly affected by such conversions. This then results to lower productivity and in extreme cases landlessness for our farmers. An absolute threat to food security.



In light of this, this bill aims to protect and maintain the prime agricultural lands together with irrigated and irrigable lands aiming to address our country's concerns on food security and the protection of our farmers.

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



**ATTY. WILTER "SHARKY" WEE PALMA II**  
1<sup>st</sup> District, Zamboanga Sibugay

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City, Philippines

18th CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3029\*

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Introduced By HON. WILTER "SHARKY" WEE PALMA II

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**AN ACT**

**PENALIZING THE CONVERSION OR CAUSING THE CONVERSION OF  
IRRIGATED AND IRRIGABLE LANDS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC  
ACT NO. 6657, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE COMPREHENSIVE  
AGRARIAN REFORM LAW OF 1998**

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

1       **SECTION 1.** Section 73 of Republic Act No. 6657, as amended, is hereby  
2 further amended to read as follows:

3               "SEC 73. Prohibited Acts and Omissions. — The following are  
4 prohibited:

5               "x x x

6               "(i) The undue delay in the compliance with the obligation to certify  
7 or attest and/or falsification of the certification or attestation as required  
8 under Section 7 of Republic Act No. 6657, as amended; [and]

9               **"(J) THE ACTUAL PHYSICAL OR LEGAL CONVERSION OR CAUSING  
10 THE PHYSICAL OR LEGAL CONVERSION OF IRRIGATED AND IRRIGABLE  
11 LANDS BY:**

12               **"(1) ANY PERSON WHO DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY  
13 PARTICIPATES IN THE CONVERSION OF IRRIGATED AND IRRIGABLE  
14 LAND;**



1                   "(2) ANY PERSON WHO DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY INDUCES  
2 THE LANDOWNER OR FARMWORKER IN THE CONVERSION OF  
3 IRRIGATED AND IRRIGABLE LAND;

4                   "(3) ANY PERSON WHO APPLIES FOR AND FACILITATES THE  
5 APPLICATION FOR CONVERSION;

6                   "(4) ANY PERSON WHO FACILITATES THE APPLICATION AND  
7 ISSUANCE OF CLEARANCES AND OTHER DOCUMENTS NECESSARY  
8 FOR CONVERSION;

9                   "(5) ANY PERSON WHO APPROVES AND CAUSE FOR THE  
10 APPROVAL OF THE APPLICATION FOR CONVERSION; AND

11                  "(6) ANY PERSON WHO DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY IS  
12 BENEFITTED FROM THE CONVERSION.

13 "FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION, "IRRIGATED LANDS" REFER TO  
14 LANDS SERVICED BY NATURAL IRRIGATION OR IRRIGATION FACILITIES,  
15 AS DELINEATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE OR THE  
16 NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION, WHICH INCLUDE LANDS  
17 WHERE WATER IS NOT READILY AVAILABLE AS EXISTING IRRIGATION  
18 FACILITIES NEED REHABILITATION OR UPGRADING, OR WHERE  
19 IRRIGATION WATER IS NOT AVAILABLE YEAR-ROUND.

20 "IRRIGABLE LANDS" REFER TO LANDS SUITABLE FOR THE CONDUCT OF  
21 AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES WHICH REQUIRE IRRIGATION AND DISPLAY  
22 PHYSICAL FEATURES JUSTIFYING THE OPERATION OF AN IRRIGATION  
23 SYSTEM, AND WHICH POSSESS AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING  
24 QUALITIES:

25                  "(I) PHYSICAL FEATURES WHICH SHOW AN INHERENT POTENTIAL  
26 FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN IRRIGATION SYSTEM, SUCH AS SOIL  
27 DEPTH, SOIL TEXTURE, FIELD TERRAIN, SLOPE, AND OTHER RELEVANT  
28 RELEVANT CHARACTERISTICS;

29                  "(II) POTENTIAL FOR A QUALITY WATER SUPPLY WHICH MAY BE  
30 SOURCED THROUGH A DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM;

31                  "(III) PART OF A SERVICEABLE AREA WHICH IS WITHIN AN ACTUAL  
32 AND FUNDED IRRIGATION SYSTEM, OR WHICH MAY BE SERVICED  
33 WITH EXISTING AND OPERATING IRRIGATION FACILITIES;

34                  "(IV) IS SITUATED WITHIN AN AREA WHERE THE APPROVED OR

1       **ADOPTED LAND USE PLAN BY THE CONCERNED LOCAL GOVERNMENT**  
2       **UNIT FOR SURROUNDING OR CONTIGUOUS LANDHOLDINGS ALLOWS**  
3       **THE CONDUCT OF AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES; AND**

4       **"(V) THE PRESENCE OF AFFECTED QUALIFIED FARMER BENEFICIA-**  
5       **RIES, TENANTS OR LESSEES WILLING TO TILL THE LAND AND RAISE**  
6       **CROPS THEREIN; AND**

7       **"[(j)](k) Any other culpable neglect or willful violations of the**  
8       **provisions of this Act.**

9       **"x x x."**

10       **SEC. 2.** Section 74 of Republic Act No. 6657, as amended, is hereby  
11 further amended to read as follows:

12       "SEC. 74. Penalties. — Any person who knowingly or willfully violates  
13 the provisions of this Act shall be punished by imprisonment of not less  
14 than one (1) month to not more than three (3) years or a fine of not less  
15 than one thousand pesos (P1,000.00) and not more than Fifteen  
16 thousand pesos (P15,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court:  
17 Provided, That the following corresponding penalties shall be imposed  
18 for the specific violations hereunder:

19       "xxx

20       "(b) Imprisonment of six (6) years and one (1) day to twelve (12)  
21 years or a fine of not less than Two hundred thousand pesos  
22 (P200,000.00) and not more than One million pesos (P1,000,000.00), or  
23 both, at the discretion of the court upon any person who violates Section  
24 73, subparagraphs (c), 9d), (e), [and] (i), AND (J) of Republic Act No.  
25 6657, as amended.

26       "xxx

27       **"IF THE OFFENDER IS A PUBLIC OFFICER, THE OFFENDER SHALL**  
28       **SUFFER THE ADDITIONAL PENALTIES OF REMOVAL FROM OFFICE AND**  
29       **PERPETUAL, ABSOLUTE DISQUALIFICATION TO HOLD PUBLIC OFFICE."**

30       **SEC. 3.** All laws, acts, decrees, executive orders, issuances, and rules and  
31 regulations or parts thereof which are contrary to and inconsistent with this  
32 Act 85 are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

33       **SEC. 4.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication  
34 in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,



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

**FACT SHEET**

**House Bill No. 3029**

AN ACT PENALIZING THE CONVERSION OR CAUSING THE CONVERSION OF IRRIGATED AND IRRIGABLE LANDS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6657, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM LAW OF 1998.

Introduced by: Representative Wilter "Sharky" Wee Palma II

Committee Referral: Committee on Agrarian Reform  
Committee Chairperson: Rep. Solomon R. Chungalao

**OBJECTIVES:**

- To preserve irrigated and irrigable lands for agrarian reform and food security purposes.
- To officially include the act of converting or causing the conversion of irrigated and irrigable lands among the prohibited acts prescribed in Republic Act No. 6657, as amended, and prescribe the corresponding penalties therefor.

**KEY PROVISIONS:**

- Amends Section 73 of RA 6657, by enumerating specific prohibited acts that constitute the conversion or causing the conversion of irrigated or irrigable lands.
- Defines "irrigated land" and "irrigable land".
- Prescribes additional penalties of removal from office and perpetual absolute disqualification to hold public office if the offender is a public officer.

**RELATED LAWS:**

- R.A. No. 9700: The Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program Extension with Reforms [07 August 2009]
- R.A. No. 6657: The Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988 [10 June 1988]