

X. Administrative Structures and Mechanisms

There are three key actors in agrarian reform, namely, (a) the government; (b) the People's Agrarian Reform Councils (PARCON); and (c) non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

X. Funding

The guiding principle on agrarian reform funding is the use of local resources in implementing agrarian reform. At the same, no additional burdens must be imposed on the Filipino people such as increased taxes or through resulting inflationary effects.

XI. Transitory Measures

1. All laws, executive issuances, rules, and regulations inconsistent with the principles and accompanying policies of agrarian reform must be repealed.

2. Safeguards and corresponding penalties must be instituted against pre-emptive actions by land-owners or other parties to defeat the purposes and intent of agrarian reform.

3. In areas where, for administrative reasons land transfer cannot be immediately undertaken, a drastic and substantial reduction in land rents must be carried out. In farms under wage labor, substantial wage increases as well as safeguards for the protection of the rights of workers must be instituted.

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Joint Declaration of the Multi-Sectoral Conference for Genuine Agrarian Reform

WE, the 600 delegates to this MULTISECTORAL CONFERENCE FOR A PEOPLE'S AGRARIAN REFORM CODE, representing a broad spectrum of peasant organizations, sectoral and cause-oriented groups, non-governmental organizations and political alliances, as well as leading agrarian reform advocates and supporters, have gathered together this 25th and 26th of June 1988 at Maryknoll College, Quezon City to issue this joint declaration and call to action on the central national agenda of genuine agrarian reform:

WHEREAS,

- the main objective of agrarian reform is to dismantle the unjust systems of control, ownership and use of land, and to democratize land-based wealth and power:

- genuine agrarian reform is the key to authentic national progress and prosperity; it shall provide the stable foundation for nationalist industrialization, the promotion of the welfare of the workers, urban poor, women and youth, the protection of human rights against militarization and repression, and freedom from foreign economic and military domination:

- the Filipino people, particularly our landless and near-landless farmers, tenants, agricultural workers, small fisherfolk and peasant women, have long clamored for a genuine and comprehensive agrarian reform based on the principles of "land to the tiller" and social justice.

- the Legislative and Executive branches of government have failed to adequately respond to this clamor for an agrarian reform law that will address the centuries-old and fundamental problems of tenancy, poverty and concentration of land in the hands of a privileged few;

- Republic Act 6657, recently enacted, miserably fails as a true social justice measure, as it deceptively contains sufficient loopholes by which landlords and multinational corporations can evade land redistribution and retain their land-based wealth and power;

- due to these failures and the growing hunger and misery in the countryside, our people are exercising various initiatives in implementing genuine agrarian reform;

NOW THEREFORE,

- we, the delegates to this Multisectoral Conference, hereby adapt and pledge to carry out the People's Agrarian Reform Code (PARCODE), founded on the following fundamental principles:

- Land to the tiller and the complete abolition of absentee landownership/absentee proprietorship;

- Comprehensive coverage of all types of arable lands, water resources, as well as tillers and other direct producers;

- Progressive and selective compensation to landowners;

- Inclusion of all previous land rentals and unpaid labor as direct payments for the land;

- Full participation of beneficiaries in decision-making and implementation;

- Preferential option for cooperatives and collectives;

- Recognition of the rights of women to land ownership;

- Reversion to Filipino control of all lands presently covered by multinational corporations;

- Recognition of the rights of small fisherfolk towards greater access to and use of water resources;

- Recognition of the ancestral land rights of tribal communities and indigenous settlers;

- Use of local resources for financing agrarian reform;

- Implementation of just labor conditions for farmworkers

- we hereby launch a signature campaign with the purpose of conducting a massive education drive on the central issue of agrarian reform; promote the People's Agrarian Reform Code; and mobilize the Filipino people based on and in support of the struggle for a genuine agrarian reform.

- we recognize that the right to life is supreme and therefore, we declare our support to all forms of peasant initiatives to render the PARCODE effective as soon as possible and have it deliver immediate economic benefits and political victories to the Filipino peasantry;

WE LIKEWISE:

- call on all sectors of Philippine society to register their voices of protest against Republic Act 6657;

- enjoin the Filipino people to exercise their right of legislative initiative by rallying behind the signature campaign;

- urge all sectors to support and protect the initiatives of peasant organizations in implementing genuine agrarian reform;

- enjoin all to support the continuing struggle of the peasantry for land, social justice and lasting peace.