Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1278

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

A RESOLUTION
URGING THE COMMITTEE ON AGRARIAN REFORM OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE CANCELLATION OF
CERTIFICATE OF LAND OWNERSHIP AWARDS AND EXCLUSION OF ARABLE LANDS IN
SARIAYA, QUEZON

WHEREAS, enshrined in the 1987 Philippine Constitution that, "The State shall, by law,
undertake an agrarian reform program founded on the right of farmers and regular farmworkers
who are landless, to own directly or collectively the lands they till or, in the case of other
farmworkers, to receive a just share of the fruits thereof";

WHEREAS, this right is provided further in the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of
1988 where, "The welfare of the landless farmers and farmworkers will receive the highest
consideration to promote social justice and to move the nation toward sound rural development
and industrialization, and the establishment of owner cultivatorship of economic-size farms as
the basis of Philippine agriculture" with the creation of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR)
as the lead implementing agency to guarantee the just execution of the law;

WHEREAS, in the first-class agricultural municipality of Sariaya, Quezon, the DAR
declared a 95% land distribution target coverage of approximately 5,000 hectares benefiting
3,781 farming families, with 3,526 hectares of leasehold operation accomplished for 2,237
farmers;

WHEREAS, the land redistribution in Sariaya, Quezon, complemented by the DAR-led
support services– including infrastructure development such as farm-to-market roads,
warehouses, solar dryers for rice, capacity building training for farmers and farmworkers, and
access to various loan programs of agrarian reform beneficiaries—propelled the local economic activities to new heights;

WHEREAS, this boom in the local agricultural industry transformed Sariaya, Quezon as the “food basket” of the surrounding provinces in Southern Tagalog, the Bicol region, as well as Metro Manila. Moreover, it reduced rural poverty among ARBs with the increase in their productivity and profits;

WHEREAS, the flourishing economy, the food security of the nearby regions, and the successes of the farmers are now threatened because of the wholesale reversal of agrarian reform in the Municipality of Sariaya;

WHEREAS, the Certificate of Land Ownership Awards (CLOAs) of farmers under the CARP are at risk of being canceled stemming from a pre-CARP zoning ordinance of the Municipality of Sariaya, ratified under Board Resolution No. 92, s. 1982, of the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) that reclassified agricultural lands into other uses. However, these reclassified lands continue to be farmlands to date and have never been developed according to its intended use nearly four (4) decades after;

WHEREAS, as reported from farmers’ organizations, three (3) cases of reversals were already carried out for 200 hectares of lands involving 100 farmers and one pending case in the Supreme Court for 416 hectares of 255 farmers, while there are more cases in various levels of litigation;

WHEREAS, the lands, rights, and livelihood of our farmers are at stake with the cancelation of CLOAs and the exclusion of arable lands from CARP; which is contrary to the objective of the law and a clear violation of their constitutional rights, and runs counter to the commitment of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte to uphold the rights of our landless farmers and support social justice to accomplish the goal of land reform;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Committee on Agrarian Reform of the House of Representatives is urged to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the cancellation of the Certificate of Land Ownership Awards and exclusion of arable lands in Sariaya, Quezon.

Adopted,

[Signature]

REP. ARDEL JOSEPH T. CABATBAT