



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1824



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

A RESOLUTION

URGING THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COCONUT FARMERS REGISTRY ENROLLMENT UNDER THE COCONUT FARMERS AND INDUSTRY TRUST FUND ACT

1 **WHEREAS**, the Republic Act No. 11524, or An Act Creating the Coconut Farmers
2 and Industry Trust Fund, Providing for Its Management and Utilization, Reconstituting
3 for the Purpose the Philippine Coconut Authority Board, and for Other Purposes, was
4 signed into law by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte on 26 February 2021;

5 **WHEREAS**, one of the key components of the law is the creation of the Coconut
6 Farmers and Industry Trust Fund that will oversee the management, utilization,
7 investment, and accounting of the more than Php 100 billion combined funds and assets
8 of the coconut industry recovered from the levies, fees, and charges imposed on the
9 coconut farmers since 1971;

10 **WHEREAS**, under the law, the Trust Fund shall be utilized according to the
11 directions and policies set by the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan that
12 will develop and rehabilitate the coconut industry to benefit the coconut farmers through
13 improved income and quality of life;

14 **WHEREAS**, R.A. 11524 mandated the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) to
15 complete the Coconut Farmers Registry within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of the
16 newly enacted law on 13 March 2021, which shall be the basis in identifying the target
17 beneficiaries of the programs to be implemented under the development plan;

1 **WHEREAS**, the PCA carried out a national registration of coconut farmers
2 between 2015 to 2018 that underwent the barangay level inclusion-exclusion validation
3 process and enrolled close to 2.5 million, out of the estimated 3.5 million coconut farmers
4 nationwide, into the National Coconut Farmers Registry System (NCFRS);

5 **WHEREAS**, the ongoing national registry of coconut farmers pursuant to
6 R.A. 11524, however, have raised significant and valid issues and concerns, such as 1) the
7 considerable lack of information dissemination on the ongoing registration, particularly
8 in geographically isolated areas; 2) materials used in the registration are not user-
9 friendly, forms are written in English presenting a challenge to some coconut farmer
10 enrollees; 3) difficulty of farmer registrants in fulfilling the technical requirements of the
11 registration; and 4) the registration process is politicized, including red-tagging, that
12 results in the disenfranchisement of eligible farmer-beneficiaries, among others;

13 **WHEREAS**, with merely days remaining in the prescribed timeline of the national
14 registration and the persistence of these issues and concerns, there is a need to review
15 the sufficiency of the 90-day registration period to avoid exclusion and injustice to
16 qualified coconut farm owners and farmworkers.

17 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**,
18 that the Committee on Agriculture and Food of the House of Representatives is urged to
19 conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the implementation of coconut farmers
20 registry enrollment under the Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund Act.

Adopted,



ARGEL JOSEPH T. CABATBAT