A RESOLUTION
URGING THE COMMITTEE ON AGRARIAN REFORM AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 75, SERIES OF 2019

WHEREAS, Article XIII, Section 4 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides 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. To this end, the State shall encourage and undertake the just distribution of all agricultural lands, subject to such priorities and reasonable retention limits as the Congress may prescribe, taking into account ecological, developmental, or equity considerations, and subject to the payment of just compensation;

WHEREAS, Section 1 of Republic Act No. 9700, also known as the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) Extension with Reforms provides that 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;

WHEREAS, on February 15, 2019, President Rodrigo Duterte has signed Executive Order (EO) No. 75 that aims to accelerate and ensure the immediate identification and segregation of all unclassified lands of public domain and all government-owned lands (GOLs) suitable for agrarian reform;
WHEREAS, EO No. 75 directs all departments, bureaus, offices, and instrumentalities of government to identify lands owned by the government devoted to, or suitable for agriculture, for distribution to qualified beneficiaries;

WHEREAS, on May 31, 2019, Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Secretary John Castriciones and Department of Justice (DOJ) Secretary Menardo Guevarra have signed the joint administrative order promulgating its Implementing Rules and Regulations;

WHEREAS, DAR, as the lead agency, has reported on May 2020 that 217,120.98 hectares of government-owned lands that can be covered by the said order;

WHEREAS, our farmer-constituents from the provinces of Occidental Mindoro and Palawan have raised their concerns on the slow-moving identification, screening, and validation process of concerned agencies that continuously disenfranchises thousands of qualified farmer-beneficiaries in their respective areas;

WHEREAS, these cases involve thousands of hectares of land that can be finally owned by farmers and be maximized for crop production, livestock, and for other agricultural purposes but has been compromised due to the delay in full implementation of the said order;

WHEREAS, this dilemma is possibly present to other provinces with farmers seeking to be granted with lands and now, calls for an appropriate government intervention;

WHEREAS, it is imperative for the House of Representatives to exercise its oversight function to concerned agencies in ensuring the efficient implementation of the said order. This will allow us, lawmakers, to assess the best practices and lapses of concerned agencies in fulfilling their duties and responsibilities stipulated in the said order; Now therefore, be it

RESOLVED AS IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Committee on Agrarian Reform and other appropriate committees of the House of Representatives to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the status of implementation of Executive Order No. 75, series of 2019.

Adopted,

REP. ARGEL JOSEPH T. CABATBAT
MAGSASAKA Party-list