



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session



HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2516

Introduced by MAGSASAKA Party-List Representative
ARGEL JOSEPH T. CABATBAT

A RESOLUTION

URGING THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN IMMEDIATE INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF LAWS, ORDERS, AND OTHER RULES GOVERNING THE UTILIZATION OF PUBLIC LANDS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE LAGUNA LAKE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

1 **WHEREAS**, Section 1, Chapter 1, of Republic Act No. 4850, as amended by
2 Presidential Decree 813, hereby declares that the national policy is to promote, and
3 accelerate the development and balanced growth of the Laguna Lake area and the
4 surrounding provinces, cities and towns hereinafter referred to as the region, within the
5 context of the national and regional plans and policies for social and economic
6 development and to carry out the development of the Laguna Lake region with due regard
7 and adequate provisions for environmental management and control, preservation of the
8 quality of human life and ecological systems, and the prevention of undue ecological
9 disturbances, deterioration and pollution;

10 **WHEREAS**, the Laguna Lake Development Authority was established by virtue of
11 Republic Act No. 4850 as a quasi-government agency with regulatory and proprietary
12 functions. Through Presidential Decree 813 in 1975, and Executive Order 927 in 1983, its
13 powers and functions were further strengthened to include environmental protection
14 and jurisdiction over the lake basin's surface water. In 1993, through Executive Order
15 149, the administrative supervision over LLDA was transferred from the Office of the
16 President to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR);

1 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 41(11) of R.A. No. 4850, lands, surrounding the
2 Laguna de Bay, located at and below the reglementary elevation of 12.50 meters are
3 considered within the buffer zone of Laguna de Bay and are public lands not appropriated
4 for private use;

5 **WHEREAS**, LLDA has approved Board Resolution No. 23, series of 1996, titled
6 “Implementing Rules and Regulations of Section 41 of RA 4850, as amended.”, that defines
7 and regulates the use and/or occupancy of the Laguna de Bay shoreland areas. The
8 shoreland areas are allowed for the following purposes: (1) tree farming/planting, (2)
9 recreational use provided no permanent structure shall be constructed, (3) agricultural
10 use, (4) fishponds provided that exotic species are not allowed, (5) poultry, (6) support
11 facilities such as dockyard/boatshed, research facilities and fish ports, and (7) other uses
12 that will not pose pollution or cause disturbances to the ecological balance of the lake
13 subject to evaluation and approval of LLDA;

14 **WHEREAS**, Article 8 (b) of the aforesaid resolution, provides that shorelands not
15 otherwise covered by legitimate titles or by any government development plans,
16 programs and projects may be leased to bonafide residents or duly organized people’s
17 organizations, associations or cooperatives in accordance with the terms and conditions
18 and subject to the approval of the LLDA;

19 **WHEREAS**, Magsasaka Partylist received reports from Lupang Arenda Multi-
20 Purpose Cooperative and Rizal Lakeshore Farmer Organization (LAMCO) in Taytay, Rizal,
21 tillers of the parcels of land at the northern tip of Laguna Lake for years, that they are
22 experiencing harassment and security threats from private companies, including the
23 Peace Be With You Corporation, Rowell Lithography and Metal Closure Inc., DMCI, and
24 Asahi who claim the farmlands as privately-owned. One of their experiences includes
25 their crops being covered with gravel and hindered entry to the farmlands that they have
26 been tilling for decades;

27 **WHEREAS**, in a dialogue with farmers on 30 September 2020, LLDA stated that
28 the parcels of land mentioned by LAMCO were cadastered by the Department of
29 Environment and Natural Resources in the 1960s and were privately-owned. After
30 conducting a Shoreland Survey Investigation, the Shoreland Management Office of LLDA
31 confirmed through a letter dated dated 03 May 2021 that the lands requested to be
32 verified by LAMCO are public lands;

33 **WHEREAS**, similar cases of harassment and intimidation were experienced by
34 Samahan ng mga Responsableng Pilipino ng Rizal in Binangonan, Rizal in 2009, who
35 claimed that the lands within the reglementary elevation that should be considered as
36 public lands were distributed to companies as private lands. The organization sought the
37 assistance of concerned agencies, including LLDA, DENR, National Mapping and Resource
38 Information Authority (NAMRIA), among others, to cause the cancellation/reversion of

1 the same and reported around ten private companies have fraudulently acquired title of
2 lands within the buffer zone;

3 **WHEREAS**, farmers also claim that they are having a hard time getting proper
4 documentation from agencies to counter check if the companies complied with necessary
5 permits for their ongoing operations in the shoreland areas;

6 **WHEREAS**, these are only a few of the various cases of harassment and
7 intimidation experienced by farmers within the reglementary elevation in the Laguna
8 Lake. It is important to note that farmers are willing to take part in leasehold agreements,
9 but they are deterred from pursuing due to questionable claims of ownership and
10 mistreatment of private companies. These make the livelihood and security of farmers be
11 at stake with the private companies' unfounded interventions;

12 **WHEREAS**, LLDA must have a complete and comprehensive audit of lands within
13 its jurisdiction to clarify boundaries and prevent confusion of ownership. With the
14 onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic and natural calamities to farmers, these cases
15 necessitate immediate government intervention to prevent further worsening of their
16 livelihood conditions;

17 **WHEREAS**, it is now a question of how concerned agencies comply with and
18 implement the laws, orders, and rules to prevent the release of land titles that are within
19 the reglementary elevation and on how they facilitate the leasehold mechanism as an
20 option to properly utilize the said lands, among others. Existing policy loopholes that
21 perpetuate these circumstances necessitate a review to avoid inappropriate use of our
22 land resources and noncompliance to the objectives set to maximize the shoreland areas;

23 **WHEREAS**, it is in the best interest of the House of Representatives to exercise its
24 oversight function over the implementation of existing policies and use it as reference to
25 amend or create laws to better utilize our land resources while maintaining ecological
26 balance in the Laguna Lake; Now therefore, be it

27 **RESOLVED AS IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Committee on Environment and
28 Natural Resources and other appropriate committees of the House of Representatives to
29 conduct an immediate inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the implementation of laws, orders,
30 and other rules governing the utilization of public lands within the jurisdiction of the
31 Laguna Lake Development Authority.

Adopted,


REP. ARGEL JOSEPH T. CABATBAT
MAGSASAKA Party-list