

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

19TH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5155



Introduced by Representative Michael L. Romero

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Executive Order No. 192 organized the Department of Environment of Natural Resources (**DENR**) in June 1987. The new organizational set - up integrated the Bureau of Lands District Land Offices to the field offices of the DENR and transformed the Bureau's Central Office to the Land Management Bureau under this set-up LMB became a staff bureau. The re-organized Bureau spearheaded the distribution of public agricultural lands through the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (**CARP**) of the government distributing 1.32 million hectares to the rural community.

For more than a century, the Bureau is in the forefront of the effort of the government to promote social equity by distributing public agricultural lands to the rural masses. From 1901 to 2006, the then Bureau of Lands and the present **Land Management Bureau** and the Land Management Sector of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources is true to its mandate of serving the Filipino people by alleviating poverty and promoting social equality through public land distribution.

This House Bill seeks to provide Modernization **Funding** to the **(LMB)**, to ensure that the country fulfills its commitments to all land classification management and disposition, Mandates and agreements.

Thus, the early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael L. Romero', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

MICHAEL L. ROMERO

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AN ACT

PROVIDING FOR MODERNIZATION FUNDINGFOR THE **LANDS MANAGEMENT BUREAU (LMB)**, TO AUGMENT LAND SURVEY STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES, EXPANDING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. DECLARATION OF POLICY - The **Lands Management Bureau** is task to absorb all powers and functions of the Bureau of Lands except those line functions and powers which are transferred to the regional field office. The Lands Management Bureau to be headed by a Director and assisted by an Assistant Director shall advise the Secretary on matters pertaining to rational land classification management and disposition.

It shall hereby be a declared policy of the state to provide direction through the development of long and medium-term strategic plans for the land sector and monitoring and evaluation tools to ensure achievement of goals.

The state shall also formulate policies for the efficient and effective administration and management of alienable and disposable public lands and ensure compliance.

SECTION 2. MODERNIZATION FUNDING. – The amount of Five Hundred Million Pesos (**Php 500,000,000.00**) for the operation and administration of the **LMB** shall be chargeable against funds for the purpose and other sources recommended by the Department of Budget and Management (**DBM**). Thereafter, appropriations for the **LMB** shall be included in the budget proposals under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (**DENR**).

Thereafter, the amount needed for the continued implementation of the modernization program, shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (**GAA**).

SECTION 3. LMB MODERNIZATION FUND – There is hereby created the *LMB Modernization Fund* to be used exclusively for the *LMB Modernization Program*.

The LMB Modernization Fund shall be administered by the Secretary of the **DENR** in accordance with existing government budgeting, accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

SECTION 4. PROGRESS REPORT – The Secretary of the **DENR** shall prepare an annual report on the status of the implementation of the *LMB Modernization Programs* which shall be submitted, to the Office of the President and to the Chairpersons of the Committee on Energy of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

SECTION 5. PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION – The modernization program under this Act shall be implemented for an initial period of two **(2)** years:

Provided, that payments for multi-year contract obligations incurred under this Act may extend beyond this period:

Provided, further, That **LMB** shall continue develop, modernize and constantly update its operational capabilities to keep pace with best global practices.

SECTION 6. POWERS AND FUNCTIONS. – The LMB shall continue to exercise and uphold the following powers and functions; but not limited to:

- a)** Recommend policies and programs for the efficient and effective administration, surveys, management and disposition of alienable and disposable lands of the public domain and other lands outside the responsibilities of other government agencies; such as reclaimed areas and other areas not needed for or are not being utilized for the purposes for which they have been established;
- b)** Advise the Regional Offices on the efficient and effective implementation of policies, programs and projects for more effective public lands management;
- c)** Assist in the monitoring and evaluation of land surveys, management and disposition of lands to ensure efficiency and effectiveness thereof;
- d)** Issue standards, guidelines, regulations and orders to enforce policies for the maximization of land use and development;
- e)** Develop operating standards and procedures to enhance the Bureau's objectives and functions;
- f)** have direct executive control of the survey, classification, lease, sale or any other forms of concessions or disposition and management of the lands of the public domain;
- g)** Perform other functions as may be assigned by the Secretary and/or provided by law.

SECTION 7. TRANSITORY PROVISION – Existing industries, businesses and offices affected by the implementation of this Act shall be given six **(6)** months transitory period from the effectivity of the IRR or such other period as may be determined, to comply with the requirements of this Act.

SECTION 8. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS. – The departments and agencies charged with carrying out the provisions of this Act shall, within sixty **(60)** days after the effectivity of this Act, formulate the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

SECTION 9. REPEALING CLAUSE. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. – If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 11. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE. – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation whichever comes earlier.

Approved,