

**[ REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6982, May 01, 1991 ]**

**AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE SOCIAL AMELIORATION  
PROGRAM IN THE SUGAR INDUSTRY, PROVIDING THE  
MECHANICS FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION, AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. *Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to further strengthen the rights of workers in the sugar industry to their just share in the fruits of production by augmenting their income and, among other schemes, institutionalizing the mechanism among the partners in the sugar industry to enable the workers and their families to enjoy a decent living.

In pursuance of this policy, the State shall consider the demand for living wages, the needs of the workers and their families, improvement in their standards of living, the seasonal nature of the work in the sugar industry, incentives for productivity, the interest of the consumers, the viability of the sugar industry, the fair return of the capital invested, and the equitable distribution of income and wealth along the imperatives of economic and social development.

SEC. 2. *National Tripartite Council in the Sugar Industry.* - To effectively implement the social and economic programs for workers in the sugar industry pursuant to the provisions of this Act, a National Tripartite Council in the Sugar Industry, hereinafter referred to as the Sugar Tripartite Council, is hereby created as the advisory body to the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) as regards such programs.

SEC. 3. *Composition.* - The Sugar Tripartite Council shall consist of ten (10) members composed of the Secretary of Labor and Employment or his duly authorized representative as ex officio Chairman; one (1) representative from the Sugar Regulatory Administration, who shall likewise sit in an ex officio capacity; two (2) representatives from the planters sector; two (2) representatives from the millers sector; two (2) representatives from the mill workers sector; and two (2) representatives from the field workers sector, as members.

The representatives from the planters, millers and workers sectors shall be appointed by the Secretary of Labor and Employment from among the nominees of the planters, millers and workers organizations, respectively.

SEC. 4. *Term.* - The representatives from the planters, millers and workers sectors shall serve for a term of three (3) years unless sooner recalled by the nominating organization. In case of vacancy, the successor shall serve the unexpired portion of the term of his predecessor. The successor shall come from the nominees of the

sector which nominated the predecessor.

SEC. 5. Regular and Special Meetings. -

- a. The Sugar Tripartite Council shall meet for its regular meeting once every three (3) months. It may conduct special meetings upon call by the Chairman or upon written request of at least three (3) of its members.
- b. The Chairman or his authorized representative and the members of the Sugar Tripartite Council shall be entitled to reimbursement of reasonable travelling expenses. The representatives from the planters, millers and workers sectors shall, in addition, be entitled to per diem for meetings attended by them.

The travelling expenses and per diem herein mentioned shall be paid out from the funds of the DOLE.

SEC. 6. District Tripartite Councils. -

- a. Whenever necessary, the Secretary of Labor and Employment shall, upon recommendation of the Sugar Tripartite Council, create a District Tripartite Council in each milling district in the Philippines to ensure greater participation by planters, millers and workers in the social and economic programs and policy determination under this Act. The District Tripartite Council shall consist of seven (7) members composed of the Regional Director of the DOLE as ex officio Chairman; two (2) representatives from the planters sector; one representative from the millers sector; two (2) representatives from the field workers sector; and one (1) representative from the mill workers sector, as members.
- b. The representatives from the planters, millers and workers sectors shall be appointed by the Secretary of Labor and Employment from among the nominees of the planters, millers and workers organizations, respectively, for a term of three (3) years.

SEC. 7. *Lien; Distribution; Collection and Remittance.* -

- a. Effective on sugar crop year 1991-1992 a lien of Five pesos (P5.00) per picul of sugar shall be imposed on the gross production of sugar to primarily augment the income of sugar workers, and to finance social and economic programs to improve their livelihood and well-being: *Provided*, That there shall be an automatic additional hen of One peso (P1.00) for every two (2) years for the succeeding ten (10) years from the effectivity of this Act: *Provided, further*, That the Secretary of Labor and Employment may, upon the recommendation of the Sugar Tripartite Council, suspend or reduce the amount of the automatic additional lien herein authorized whenever circumstances occur adversely affecting or causing undue increases in the cost of producing sugar, taking into consideration the declared policy of this Act.

The amounts herein imposed shall be borne by the sugar planters and millers in proportion to their corresponding milling share and said amounts shall constitute a lien on their sugar quedans and/or warehouse receipts.

- b. Eighty percent (80%) of the lien, including any and all incomes or interests derived therefrom, shall be distributed as cash bonus to each worker in the sugar farm or mill based on the proportion of work rendered by him. The cash