

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1160, June 18, 1954]

AN ACT TO FURTHER IMPLEMENT THE FREE DISTRIBUTION OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN AS PROVIDED FOR IN COMMONWEALTH ACT NUMBERED SIX HUNDRED AND NINETY-ONE, AS AMENDED, TO ABOLISH THE LAND SETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION CREATED UNDER EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBERED THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FIVE, DATED OCTOBER TWENTY-THREE, NINETEEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY, AND TO CREATE IN ITS PLACE THE NATIONAL RESETTLEMENT AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. It is hereby declared to be the policy of Congress to help speed up the free distribution of agricultural lands of the public domain to landless tenants and farm workers who are citizens of the Philippines and to encourage migration to sparsely populated regions pursuant to the fundamental policy of the government to promote the level of production, employment and living standards of the people.

SEC. 2. *National Resettlement and Rehabilitation Administration.*—In furtherance of the above policy, there is hereby created a corporation to be known as National Resettlement and Rehabilitation Administration hereafter referred to as "NARRA" to perform under the supervision and control of the President of the Philippines, through the Office of Economic Coordinator all the duties and functions of the Bureau of Lands as provided in Commonwealth Act Numbered Six hundred and ninety-one, as amended, and such other duties as are hereinafter specified in this Act. It shall be headed by a General Manager and an Assistant General Manager who shall be appointed as hereinafter provided.

SEC. 3. The NARRA shall have at least three divisions, wit: (1) Settler Selection and Screening, (2) Translation and Supplies, and (3) Settlement Assistance and Community Work. The General Manager shall submit at the beginning of each fiscal year, but not later than July thirty-one, a program of activities for the whole fiscal year together with the budget of expenditures to support such a program for the final approval of the President of the Philippines.

POWERS

SEC. 4. *General powers.*—NARRA is hereby authorized to adopt, alter, and use an official seal; to make contract to lease or own real and personal property, and to or otherwise dispose of the same; to sue and be sued; and to make such regulations as are necessary to execute the functions vested in it by this Act.

SEC. 5. *Special powers.*—NARRA is authorized:

1. To give land, subject to the qualifications, requirements and conditions prescribed by the Public Land Act and under the terms and conditions as may be defined by the Board of Directors, to landless citizens of the Philippines who need, deserve and are capable of tilling the land;
2. To facilitate the settlement, acquisition and cultivation of agricultural lands;
3. To acquire by purchase such agricultural portions of landed estates as may be directed by the President of the Philippines for the prosecution of the policy stated in section one of this Act;
4. To reclaim swamps and marshes, obtain title thereto where feasible, and to convert them into agricultural lands for settlement;
5. To promote community life in the settlements;
6. To borrow money from any credit institution for any of the purposes herein provided;
7. To survey, subdivide and set aside lots or areas of such lands for farming, townsites, roads, parks, government centers, and other public and civic improvements, and to dispose of farm lands and townsite lots to persons qualified to the extent of areas authorized under the Constitution and the Public Land Act, subject to such other qualifications and to prices, terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors;
8. To secure for the settlers from other government agencies such assistance and facilities as may be necessary to accelerate development, cultivation and electrification of settlements; construction of irrigation systems; institution of credit facilities; enhancement of cottage industries and establishment of processing plants, warehouses and marketing facilities; and
9. To do all such other things and to transact all business directly or indirectly necessary, incidental or conducive to the attainment of the policy enunciated this Act.

SEC. 6. In addition to the functions and duties specified and to implement the same properly, the NARRA shall undertake the following activities:

1. To select and screen applicants for allocation within areas set aside for purposes of settlement in the public domain who (a) are *bona fide* farmers in the highly settled areas, (b) do not own any land with an area of five hectares or more, (c) have not owned any homestead, (d) have not secured any homestead rights from any homesteader, (e) are capable of discharging their responsibilities as settlers, and (f) shall work the land in the settlement areas on the basis of the family-operated, family-type farms: *Provided*, That in selecting applicants the following order or priority shall be observed: (a) actual *bona fide* tenants or occupants of the land; (b) surrendered dissidents, who take an oath and show sincere desire, to support the Constitution of the Philippines; (c) graduates of agricultural schools and colleges; (d) trainees who have completed military training; (e) veterans and members of guerrilla organizations; and (f) other applicants possessing the qualifications required herein.
2. To assist settlers in transporting themselves, their belongings, work animals and farm equipment, if any, from the communities from which they are migrating to the settlement areas reserved for the purpose, and for subsistence necessary until credit can be provided by the Agricultural Credit and Cooperative Financing Administration (ACCF) under section thirteen of

this Act, or by any other credit institution by loaning to them the full amount required for such purposes. These loans shall be non-interest bearing, a lien upon the land, and shall be amortized over a period of ten years, payable annually beginning with the end of the third year after the date of arrival in the settlement area, subject to the right of the borrower to pay in full at any time prior to the maturity of the loan;

3. To assist the said settlers in securing equipment supplies and materials needed in the settlement areas at the most advantageous prices or terms, and, if requested to assist the cooperative associations of the new settlers in securing the most advantageous prices or terms on farm implements and supplies needed by the cooperative associations and their members;
4. To help provide housing and other accommodations for the new settlers in the settlement areas upon arrival by locating them in properly surveyed and subdivided lots reserved for the purpose, to help organize community activities that the new settlers require upon arrival in the new settlement, and to cooperate with the agricultural extension service, the Bureau of Health, the Bureau of Public Schools and other pertinent agencies of the Government, in providing the services for the proper establishment of community facilities as well as the organization of collective efforts essential to development in the new settlement areas.
5. To submit its annual report and balance sheets to the President and the Congress of the Philippines, as provided in sections five hundred and seventy-four to five hundred and seventy-seven of the Administrative Code;
6. To appoint and fix the number and salaries, upon recommendation of the Office of Economic Coordination and with the approval of the President of the Philippines and subject to Civil Service Law and Rules and the salary law, of such subordinate personnel as may be necessary for the proper discharge of its duties and functions and upon recommendation of the Office of Economic Coordination and with the approval of the President, suspend, remove or otherwise discipline, any of its subordinate employees, and
7. To perform such other related duties as may be assigned to it by the President of the Philippines from time to time.

SEC. 7. Board of Directors—Its Composition, tenure of office and meetings.—The powers and functions of NARRA shall be exercised by a Board of Directors to be composed of a Chairman and five members. They shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines with the consent of the Commission on Appointments for a term of three years. Any person chosen to fill a vacancy shall serve only for the unexpired term of the member whom he succeeds.

The Board shall hold regular meetings and such number of special meetings as may be called by the Chairman or any three members from time to time: *Provided, however,* That the total number of meetings of the Board shall not be more than four a month. The Chairman and the members shall each receive a per diem of twenty-five pesos for every meeting actually attended.

SEC. 8. Powers and duties of the Board of Directors.— The Board of Directors shall have the following powers and duties:

1. To prescribe, amend and repeal by-laws, rules and regulations governing the manner in which the general business of NARRA may be exercised, including provisions regarding subdivision of lands into small farm lots, distribution