

# [ Commonwealth Act No. 441, June 03, 1939 ]

## AN ACT CREATING THE NATIONAL LAND SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION

*Be it enacted by the National Assembly of the Philippines:*

Sec. 1. There is created a corporation composed of five persons to be known as "National Land Settlement Administration." They shall act as members of the Board of Directors, in charge of the management of the Corporation and shall be appointed every three years by the President of the Philippines, with the consent of the Commission on Appointments of the National Assembly. The Corporation shall enjoy the general powers mentioned in the Corporation Law, shall be subject to the provisions thereof insofar as the same are compatible with the provisions of this Act, and, for attaining the purposes of the same, may perform any act which a corporation, co partnership, or natural person is authorized to perform under the laws existing or which may be hereafter enacted. This Corporation shall have its main office in the City of Manila.

Sec. 2. The Corporation shall serve as an agency of the Commonwealth the Government for the attainment of the following objectives:

- a. To facilitate the acquisition, settlement and cultivation of lands whether acquired from the Government or from private parties;
- b. To afford opportunity to own farms to tenant farmers and small farmers from congested areas, and to trainees who have completed the prescribed military training.
- c. To encourage migration to sparsely populated regions, and facilitate the amalgamation of the people in different sections of the Philippines;
- d. To develop new money crops to take the place of the present export crops which may suffer from the loss of preferences which they enjoy in the American market.

Sec. 3. To carry out these purposes, the Corporation shall have the following powers:

- a. To hold without limitation as to area public agricultural lands for a period not exceeding twenty-five years, renewable by the President of the Philippines for another period of not exceeding twenty-five years;
- b. To recommend to the President of the Philippines the reservation of public lands, preferably those situated along national highways, and to provide for the clearing, breaking, and cultivation of the lands so reserved for subsistence farming, or for money crops, or for both, on a cooperative basis or under such arrangements as may prove beneficial to the settlers, and for their survey into convenient lots, and to set aside such area or areas as may be deemed desirable for town sites, roads, government building sites, parks, and other public improvements. The expenses incurred in connection with the survey and subdivision of lots for allotment to settlers or for their initial cultivation shall be chargeable to the fund herein