

CONSERVATION AND UTILIZATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

(Art. XIII, Constitution of the Philippines)

SECTION 1. All agricultural, timber, and mineral lands of the public domain, waters, minerals, coal, petroleum, and other mineral oils, all forces of potential energy, and other natural resources of the Philippines belong to the State, and their disposition, exploitation, development, or utilization shall be limited to citizens of the Philippines, or to corporations or associations at least sixty *per centum* of the capital of which is owned by such citizens, subject to any existing right, grant, lease, or concession at the time of the inauguration of the Government established under this Constitution. Natural resources, with the exception of public agricultural land, shall not be alienated, and no license, concession, or lease for the exploitation, development, or utilization of any of the natural resources shall be granted for a period exceeding twenty-five years, renewable for another twenty-five years, except as to water rights for irrigation, water supply, fisheries, or industrial uses other than the development of water power, in which cases beneficial use may be the measure and the limit of the grant.

SEC. 2. No private corporation or association may acquire, lease, or hold public agricultural lands in excess of one thousand and twenty-four hectares, nor may any individual acquire such lands by purchase in excess of one hundred and forty-four hectares, or by lease in excess of one thousand and twenty-four hectares, or by homestead in excess of twenty-four hectares. Lands adapted to grazing, not exceeding two thousand hectares, may be leased to an individual, private corporation, or association.

SEC. 3. The Congress may determine by law the size of private agricultural land which individuals, corporations, or associations may acquire

RIZAL ON WORK AND UNITY FOR THE NATION

Your letter has greatly astonished me as it tells me of resentments, differences, and reconciliations. I think it is useless to talk of things that do not exist, and, if they did exist, they must have vanished in the past. I am of the same opinion as you, that there having been nothing at all we should lose no time talking about it.

If I stopped writing for *Solidaridad*, I did so for various reasons: 1st I need time to work on my book; 2nd I wish that other Filipinos should also work; 3rd I have thought that within the party what counts much is unity in the work; and inasmuch as you are now on top and I have also my own ideas, it is more important that you be left to direct the policy as you understand it and that I should not meddle with it. This has two advantages: it leaves us both free and it increases your prestige, which is very necessary because in our country men of prestige are needed. I do not mean to say by this that I am not going to work and follow the course of your activities. I am like an army corps that at the needed moment you see arrive and fall upon the flanks of the enemy who are before you. I only ask God that I be given the means to do so. Moreover, frankly I do not like to waste time attacking and fighting private enterprises as those of P. Font, Quioquiap, and others. I fight for the nation, the Philippines.—*From Rizal's letter to M. H. del Pilar. 1891. (Reprint from Panorama of March, 1939).*

and hold, subject to rights existing prior to the enactment of such law.

SEC. 4. The Congress may authorize, upon payment of just compensation, the expropriation of lands to be subdivided into small lots and conveyed at cost to individuals.

SEC. 5. Save in cases of hereditary succession, no private agricultural land
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APPROPRIATION FOR ADDITIONAL POLICEMEN

"SIR:—The following are the answers to the "special questions" brought up in the conference held in the City of Iloilo by the Secretary of the Interior with the local officials of that province on December 6, 1948, with the request that said local officials be advised accordingly hereof:

"Question No. 1. To employ more policemen, can a municipality set aside more than 65% of its gross income for administrative expenses?

"Section 2299 of the Administrative Code limits the amount which may be expended from the municipal general fund of a municipality during any fiscal year for salaries and wages of municipal officials and employees, of every description, excluding those employed in public works, in the following percentages: 50% for first class municipalities; 60% for second class municipalities; 65% for third class municipalities; and 75% for fourth class municipalities.

"From the foregoing and, as a direct answer to the question, any municipality from 3rd class down may spend 65% of its income from the general fund for salaries and wages of its officials and employees, including policemen. Such municipalities may also set aside more than 65% of their general funds in order to employ more policemen, but the matter which is considered expenditure in excess of the

rate allowable for salaries and wages should have the previous authorization of the Provincial Board and the specific approval of the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to the provisions of Section 2299 of the Administrative Code. First and second class municipalities may also spend 65% or more of their general funds in order to employ more policemen if the need therefor is absolute, subject also to the approval of the higher authorities as indicated herein. In such cases, the local officials concerned should submit to the authorities concerned sufficient justification for the excess expenditure and should also give evidence that, based on the trend of revenue collection, the municipality concerned will not likely incur overdraft at the close of accounts of the fiscal year involved even if the excess is authorized.

"Question No. 2. If a town can not afford to pay salaries for emergency policemen, and there is need for same, what should its officials do?

"Under the provisions of our Un-numbered Provincial Circular, dated March 31, 1947, regarding the abolition of civilian guards, etc., and the organization, in lieu thereof, of a tem-

Conservation . . .

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shall be transferred or assigned except to individuals, corporations, or associations qualified to acquire or hold lands of the public domain in the Philippines.

SEC. 6. The State may, in the interest of national welfare and defense, establish and operate industries and means of transportation and communication, and, upon payment of just compensation, transfer to public ownership utilities and other private enterprises to be operated by the Government.

Compliments
of

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