



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM

Tunay na Pagbabago sa Repormang Agraryo

DAR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 03
SERIES OF 2020.

SUBJECT: AWARDING AGRICULTURAL LANDS TO QUALIFIED GRADUATES OF FOUR YEAR DEGREES IN AGRICULTURE OR IN RELATED FIELDS FOR THEIR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND THE GROWTH OF THE NATION

PREFATORY STATEMENT

The ageing of the Filipino farmer is a serious concern on the future of the nation in terms of its ability to ensure food security. While a system for the transfer of the rights of the ARB to his or her spouse and children is provided under Section 27 of R.A. No. 6657, as amended, through hereditary succession, voluntary conveyance, or repurchase from the government, the system of succession does not entirely address the need for a sufficient number of second generation farmers.

The young has developed an aversion for farming since it has always been associated with hard work and poverty. Even the parents measure the success of their children if they are able to find employment in the urban areas or overseas.

The youth does not consider agriculture as a career option. It is not seen as a profession. It is viewed merely as an activity associated with difficult manual toil under the scorching heat of the sun. Despite all the hardships associated with cultivating the soil, farming does not bring good returns. Farmers are always viewed by the young as part of the marginalized sector.

The country is not lacking in providing educational training to the youth in the fields of agriculture, agricultural engineering, forestry, forest engineering and related fields. The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) reported that for academic year 2017-2018, there is a total of 26, 861 graduates of academic degrees in agriculture from state universities and colleges, other government schools, and local universities and colleges. Most of these graduates seek greener pastures not in the agricultural fields. They become employed in the cities or they become overseas Filipino workers. The number of graduates in agriculture and related fields are reportedly decreasing.

The average age of a Filipino farmer is 57. In a decade, this farmer can no longer be as strong and as efficient on the field as he or she was in the earlier days. The prospects for retirement are dim for this farmer unless there will be those from the younger set who will take over the farmer's tasks.

Unless efforts are initiated by government to show to the youth that there is a viable future in agriculture, the country will face a dwindling number of farmers in our

fields. If left unchecked, this trend will have serious and deleterious effects in our capability to ensure food security.

The call of the times is for the infusion of fresh and new blood in the agricultural sector. The graduates of agricultural degrees in the colleges and universities should stand at the forefront of the campaign to usher in a new phase in agriculture and in the implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program. The graduates of the agricultural courses have the technological know-how and the passion to make agricultural lands increase its yield. Government must intervene and nurture them through credit facilities, technical assistance, and support services.

The road to the economic empowerment of our graduates as purveyors of modern agriculture is the hope for the future. We commence this endeavor by giving the graduates of agricultural and related degrees their own land to cultivate and make productive for their economic empowerment and for the growth of the nation.

SECTION 1 LEGAL BASIS

Section 4 of Republic Act (R.A.) No. 6657, as amended, or the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law, includes the coverage of unused government-owned lands devoted and suitable for agriculture which are to be acquired and distributed by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in coordination with the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council (PARC) to qualified beneficiaries;

Executive Order (E.O.) No. 407, Series of 1990, as amended by E.O. No. 448, Series of 1991 accelerated the acquisition of unused government-owned lands suitable for agriculture and their distribution to qualified beneficiaries under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program;

E.O. No. 75, Series of 2019 directs the DAR to acquire all lands devoted to or suitable for agriculture, which are owned by the departments, bureaus, offices, and instrumentalities of the Government, and which are no longer actually, directly, and exclusively used or necessary for the purpose for which they have been reserved, for the purpose of distributing the same to qualified beneficiaries;

Section 7, Rule III of the Joint DAR-DOJ Administrative Order (A.O.) No. 7, Series of 2019, which is the Implementing Rules and Regulations of E.O. No. 75, Series of 2019, designates the DAR as the lead agency responsible for the distribution of validated and segregated government-owned lands, including the identification, screening, and installation of qualified agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) who are landless and have the willingness, aptitude, and ability to cultivate and make the land as productive as possible pursuant to Section 22 of R.A. No. 6657 (CARP);

Paragraph No. 7 of Section 40 of R.A. No. 6657, as amended, or the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law provides:

“(7) Agriculture Graduates. – Graduates of agricultural schools who are landless shall be assisted by the government, through the DAR, in their desire to own and till agricultural lands.”

DAR A.O. No. 03, Series of 1997 provides the rules and procedures governing the award of lands of the public domain which are under the jurisdiction of the DAR to landless war veterans and veterans of military campaigns, their surviving spouses and orphans, AFP and INP/PNP retirees, returnees, surrenderees, agriculture graduates of agricultural schools, and other similar beneficiaries.

Section 49 of R.A. No. 6657, as amended, provides that the DAR shall have the power to issue rules and regulations, whether substantive or procedural, to carry out the objectives and purposes of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law.

SECTION 2 EMPOWERMENT UNDER THE COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM

Subject to the limitations and conditions provided under applicable laws, rules, and issuances, persons who have completed the requirements to acquire a bachelor’s degree in agriculture, agriculture engineering, forestry, forest engineering, or related fields as certified by the Registrar of the said educational institution, and who are landless, may be awarded agricultural lands from unused government-owned lands acquired by the DAR in accordance with E.O. No. 75, Series of 2020:

This benefit is separate and distinct from the award of agricultural lands from the public lands under DAR A.O. No. 03, Series of 1997. Awardees of land under the said program are no longer qualified under this program.

SECTION 3 QUALIFICATIONS TO BECOME A RECIPIENT OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS

A person may be awarded agricultural lands acquired by the DAR from unused government-owned lands under E.O. No. 75, Series of 2019 and become an agrarian reform beneficiary under the CARP, provided that the following qualifications are met:

- 3.1. The person is a graduate of a four-year bachelor’s degree in agriculture, agriculture engineering, forestry, forest engineering, or related fields as certified by the registrar of the said educational institution
- 3.2. The person is landless.
- 3.3. The person is a resident of the municipality where the landholding is located.
- 3.4. The person has the willingness, aptitude, and ability to cultivate and make the land productive.

- 3.5. The person has no pending application before the DAR as an agrarian reform beneficiary.
- 3.6. The person has no pending application or has not been a beneficiary under DAR A.O. No. 03, Series of 1997.

SECTION 4 THE AWARDED LAND

- 4.1. The agricultural lands which are covered under this program are those which have been segregated from government-owned lands and which have been titled in the name of the Republic of the Philippines on the basis of E.O. No. 75, Series of 2020 and DAR-DOJ Joint A.O. No. 7, Series of 2019.
- 4.2. In order for such agricultural lands to be available to individuals under Section 2 of these Rules, it is necessary that no portion of the land is already occupied by any person who is undertaking any agricultural activity which includes the cultivation of the soil, the planting of crops, including the harvesting of such farm products, and other farm activities and practices performed by a farmer in conjunction with such farming operations done by persons whether natural or juridical. Agricultural activities also include the growing of fruit trees, raising of livestock, poultry or fish. The agricultural activity being done by this person must be for two (2) years at the time when the inspection was made by the DAR for purposes of this program and must be the main source of livelihood of the said occupant(s). All these allegations must be established and certified as true by the Barangay Agrarian Reform Council (BARC) or the Municipal Agrarian Reform Program Officer (MARPO).
- 4.3. The individuals under Section 2 of these Rules may also qualify as recipients of agricultural lands acquired from private agricultural lands, either as original awardees or as re-allocatees, subject to compliance by the said individuals with the pertinent agrarian reform laws as well as pertinent rules and regulations of the DAR particularly on qualified ARBs under Section 22 of R.A. No. 6657, as amended, and on the financial obligations of ARBs consisting of the payment of the thirty-year annual amortization at 6 % per annum under Section 26 of R.A. No. 6657, as amended
- 4.2. The land to be awarded under this program shall not exceed three (3) hectares and shall be located in the area where the potential beneficiary is residing.

SECTION 5 OBLIGATIONS AND BENEFITS AS AWARDEE

- 5.1. The awardee shall be undertaking the duties and obligations as provided under this Order, other pertinent rules and regulations of the DAR, as well as R.A. No. 6657, as amended, and other agrarian reform laws which primarily consist of cultivating and making the awarded land productive.

- 5.2. The awardee shall be enjoying the benefits under the CARP which primarily consist of receiving the title to the awarded land and receiving support services as provided under this Order and agrarian reform laws. The beneficiary under this program shall be particularly bound by the provisions of Sections 73 and 74 of R.A. No. 6657, as amended.
- 5.3. The duties, obligations as well as the privileges of the awardee under this program commence from the receipt of the Certificate of Land Ownership Award (CLOA) and the installation of the awardee on the awarded land.

SECTION 6 APPLICATION PROCESS AND REQUIREMENTS

- 6.1. All applications for an award under this program shall be submitted to the MARPO or in the event of the absence of a MARPO in the municipality, to the Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II (PARPO II). The application for an award shall be consisting of the following:
 - 6.1.1. Application Form.
 - 6.1.2. Proof of identification.
 - 6.1.3. The Letter of Intent by the applicant expressing the interest to be an awardee of agricultural land.
 - 6.1.4. A sworn statement stating and proving that he or she possesses each of the qualifications under Section 3 of these Rules. There must be a discussion of each requirement. There must also be a discussion of the assets of the applicant.
 - 6.1.5. The notarized certificate of the registrar of the educational institution stating that the applicant is a bona fide graduate of a four-year bachelor's degree in agriculture, agriculture engineering, forestry, forest engineering, or related fields.
- 6.2. The MARPO or the PARPO II, as the case may be, shall conduct a thorough investigation for the vetting of the applicant. Only those applicants who qualify shall be endorsed to the Regional Director. Endorsement to the Regional Director shall be made within fifteen (15) days from receipt by the MARPO or the PARPO II of all the documents under Section 6.1 of these Rules. The MARPO or the PARPO II, as the case may be, shall notify the applicants who are not included in the endorsement.
- 6.3. The Regional Director shall submit the recommendations of the Office to the Secretary for approval within fifteen (15) days from the receipt by the Regional Director of the endorsement from the MARPO or the PARPO II. The proposed

area, location, features, current RP Title, and other information regarding the awarded land shall be included in the report.

- 6.4. The Secretary shall issue the Notice of Qualification as an Awardee to those who are compliant with the requirements under this Order. The Regional Director shall be furnished an official copy of the Notice of Qualification.
- 6.5. The Secretary shall issue an Order addressed to the proper and concerned Register of Deeds for the issuance of the Certificate of Land Ownership Award. The Regional Director shall be furnished an official copy of the Order to the Register of Deeds.
- 6.6. The Regional Director shall coordinate with the field offices in the provincial and municipal levels to ensure that the process and requirements under Section 6 of these rules are complied with.

SECTION 7 DISQUALIFICATION OF AWARDEE

- 7.1. An applicant or an awardee may be disqualified from the program as provided under these rules after due notice and hearing conducted by the Regional Director in accordance with the substantive rules and procedure governing Agrarian Law Implementation (ALI) case in any of the following:
 - 7.1.1. Any use of fraud or misrepresentation in the application for the award or during the enjoyment of the award.
 - 7.1.2. Any act or omission which constitutes a violation of R.A No. 6657, as amended, or any agrarian reform law.
 - 7.1.3. Any act or omission which violates any of the rules and regulations issued by the DAR.
- 7.2. The decision of the Regional Director is appealable to the Secretary also in accordance with the substantive rules and procedure governing ALI cases.

SECTION 8 REPEALING CLAUSE

All other issuances or parts thereof that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 9
SEPARABILITY CLAUSE**

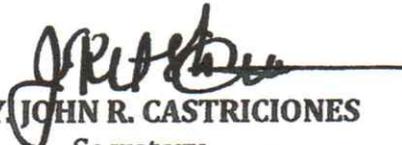
In the event that any provision of this Order or any part hereof is declared invalid, illegal, or unconstitutional, the provisions not thereby affected shall remain in full force and effect.

**SECTION 10
EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE**

This Order shall take effect ten (10) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

DEC 04 2020

Done in the City of Manila this ___ day of _____ in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty.


ATTY. JOHN R. CASTRICIONES
Secretary
John R. Castriciones
2020

Department of Agrarian Reform
Office of the Secretary



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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM

Tunay na Pagbabago sa Repormang Agraryo

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that DAR Administrative Order No. 03, Series of 2020 entitled **“AWARDING AGRICULTURAL LANDS TO QUALIFIED GRADUATES OF FOUR YEAR DEGREES IN AGRICULTURE OR IN RELATED FIELDS FOR THEIR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND THE GROWTH OF THE NATION”** was published today, 28 December 2020, in the Manila Bulletin newspaper.

Issued this 28th day of December 2020 for whatever purpose it may serve.


CLEON LESTER G. CHAVEZ
Director, Public Assistance and
Media Relations Service



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DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM
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The young has developed an aversion for farming since it has always been associated with hard work and poverty. Even the parents measure the success of their children if they are able to find employment in the urban areas or overseas.

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Unless efforts are initiated by government to show to the youth that there is a viable future in agriculture, the country will face a dwindling number of farmers in our fields. If left unchecked, this trend will have serious and deleterious effects in our capability to ensure food security.

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"(7) Agriculture Graduates. – Graduates of agricultural schools who are landless shall be assisted by the government, through the DAR, in their desire to own and till agricultural lands."

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SECTION 2 EMPOWERMENT UNDER THE COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM

Subject to the limitations and conditions provided under applicable laws, rules, and issuances, persons who have completed the requirements to acquire a bachelor's degree in agriculture, agriculture engineering, forestry, forest engineering, or related fields as certified by the Registrar of the said educational institution, and who are landless, may be awarded agricultural lands from unused government-owned lands acquired by the DAR in accordance with E.O. No. 75, Series of 2020:

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- 3.3. The person is a resident of the municipality where the landholding is located.
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- 3.5. The person has no pending application before the DAR as an agrarian reform beneficiary.
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SECTION 4 THE AWARDED LAND

- 4.1. The agricultural lands which are covered under this program are those which have been segregated from government-owned lands and which have been titled in the name of the Republic of the Philippines on the basis of E.O. No. 75, Series of 2020 and DAR-DOJ Joint A.O. No. 7, Series of 2019.
- 4.2. In order for such agricultural lands to be available to individuals under Section 2 of these Rules, it is necessary that no portion of the land is already occupied by any person who is undertaking any agricultural activity which includes the cultivation of the soil, the planting of crops, including the harvesting of such farm products, and other farm activities and practices performed by a farmer in conjunction with such farming operations done by persons whether natural or juridical. Agricultural activities also include the growing of fruit trees, raising of livestock, poultry or fish. The agricultural activity being done by this person must be for two (2) years at the time when the inspection was made by the DAR for purposes of this program and must be the main source of livelihood of the said occupant(s). All these allegations must be established and certified as true by the Barangay Agrarian Reform Council (BARC) or the Municipal Agrarian Reform Program Officer (MARPO).
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- 4.4. The land to be awarded under this program shall not exceed three (3) hectares and shall be located in the area where the potential beneficiary is residing.

- 5.1. The awardee shall be undertaking the duties and obligations as provided under this Order, other pertinent rules and regulations of the DAR, as well as R.A. No. 6657, as amended, and other agrarian reform laws which primarily consist of cultivating and making the awarded land productive.
- 5.2. The awardee shall be enjoying the benefits under the CARP which primarily consist of receiving the title to the awarded land and receiving support services as provided under this Order and agrarian reform laws. The beneficiary under this program shall be particularly bound by the provisions of Sections 73 and 74 of R.A. No. 6657, as amended.
- 5.3. The duties, obligations as well as the privileges of the awardee under this program commence from the receipt of the Certificate of Land Ownership Award (CLOA) and the installation of the awardee on the awarded land.

**SECTION 6
APPLICATION PROCESS AND REQUIREMENTS**

- 6.1. All applications for an award under this program shall be submitted to the MARPO or in the event of the absence of a MARPO in the municipality, to the Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II (PARPO II). The application for an award shall be consisting of the following:
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- 6.3. The Regional Director shall submit the recommendations of the Office to the Secretary for approval within fifteen (15) days from the receipt by the Regional Director of the endorsement from the MARPO or the PARPO II. The proposed area, location, features, current RP Title, and other information regarding the awarded land shall be included in the report.
- 6.4. The Secretary shall issue the Notice of Qualification as an Awardee to those who are compliant with the requirements under this Order. The Regional Director shall be furnished an official copy of the Notice of Qualification.
- 6.5. The Secretary shall issue an Order addressed to the proper and concerned Register of Deeds for the issuance of the Certificate of Land Ownership Award. The Regional Director shall be furnished an official copy of the Order to the Register of Deeds.
- 6.6. The Regional Director shall coordinate with the field offices in the provincial and municipal levels to ensure that the process and requirements under Section 6 of these rules are complied with.

**SECTION 7
DISQUALIFICATION OF AWARDEE**

- 7.1. An applicant or an awardee may be disqualified from the program as provided under these rules after due notice and hearing conducted by the Regional Director in accordance with the substantive rules and procedure governing Agrarian Law Implementation (ALI) case in any of the following:
 - 7.1.1. Any use of fraud or misrepresentation in the application for the award or during the enjoyment of the award.
 - 7.1.2. Any act or omission which constitutes a violation of R.A No. 6657, as amended, or any agrarian reform law.
 - 7.1.3. Any act or omission which violates any of the rules and regulations issued by the DAR.
- 7.2. The decision of the Regional Director is appealable to the Secretary also in accordance with the substantive rules and procedure governing ALI cases.

**SECTION 8
REPEALING CLAUSE**

All other issuances or parts thereof that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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SEPARABILITY CLAUSE**

In the event that any provision of this Order or any part hereof is declared invalid, illegal, or unconstitutional, the provisions not thereby affected shall remain in full force and effect.

**SECTION 10
EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE**

This Order shall take effect ten (10) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

Done in the City of Manila this 4th day of December in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty.


ATTY. JOHN R. CASTRIONES
Secretary

