



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 10276

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AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE PHILIPPINE CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION,
REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1467, AS

AMENDED, ENTITLED "CREATING THE 'PHILIPPINE CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION' PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS AND ACTIVITIES, PROVIDING FOR ITS CAPITALIZATION AND FOR THE REQUIRED GOVERNMENT PREMIUM SUBSIDY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "Revised Charter of
2 the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation".

3 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State
4 to provide support to agriculture through adequate financial, production, marketing
5 and other support services. Towards this end, the State shall:

6 (a) Ensure food security, intensity food production, promote agricultural
7 credit, and broaden the coverage of mandatory crop insurance amidst
8 the recurrence of disasters and calamities, natural or otherwise, such
9 as floods, typhoons, heavy rains, and drought that destroy crops,
10 especially *palay* and other grains and crops necessary for food security;

11 (b) Alleviate the financial burden of farmers and fisherfolk due to
12 uncompensated losses arising from destruction of crops wrought by
13 disasters and calamities; keep them away from indebtedness; enhance
14 their credit standing; and provide additional government support to
15 farmers and fisherfolk to increase agricultural production;

16 (c) Assist banks and financial institutions by enhancing their capabilities to
17 extend loans to farmers; and

18 (d) Strengthen the organizational capability and expand the coverage of
19 the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC), to provide insurance
20 protection to farmers and fisherfolk against losses arising from natural
21 calamities, fortuitous events, plant and fish diseases, and pest
22 infestations.

23 SEC. 3. *Expanded Purposes and Coverage of the PCIC.* – The Philippine
24 Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC), a government-owned corporation established
25 pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 1467, with its principal place of business in
26 Metro Manila, shall insure qualified farmers and fisherfolk against losses arising
27 from natural calamities, fortuitous events, plant and fish diseases, and pest
28 infestations.

1 The PCIC shall provide insurance coverage for *palay* and corn crops, high-
2 value commercial crops, livestock, aquaculture and fishery products, agroforestry
3 crops, and forest plantations; non-crop agricultural assets such as machineries,
4 equipment, transport facilities, and other related infrastructure; and life and accident
5 term insurance coverage for farmers and fisherfolk. Such crop insurance shall
6 cover, in every case, the cost of production inputs, the value of the labor of the
7 farmers or fisherfolk, and members of their households including the value of the
8 labor of hired workers, and a portion of the projected value of the crops. Such
9 insurance protection, however, shall exclude losses arising from avoidable risks
10 emanating from or due to the negligence, malfeasance, or fraud committed by the
11 insured or any member of the immediate farm household or employee, or the failure
12 of the insured to follow proven farm practices.

13 The PCIC shall also insure properties and facilities which are owned or used
14 by government agencies involved in agri-fishery-forestry projects or activities and
15 government-financed agri-fishery-forestry projects. It shall also provide reinsurance
16 coverage to agri-fishery-forestry properties and facilities underwritten by private and
17 government insurance companies, and weather index-based insurance (WIBI) and
18 reinsurance for *palay* and corn crops, high-value commercial crops, livestock,
19 aquaculture and fishery products, agroforestry crops, and forest plantation.

20 **SEC. 4. Powers.** – The PCIC shall continue to exercise the following powers
21 and functions:

- 22 (a) To prescribe, repeal, and amend its own by-laws;
23 (b) To adopt and use a corporate seal;
24 (c) To sue and be sued;
25 (d) To have continuous succession until dissolved by law;
26 (e) To determine its operating policies and to issue such rules and
27 regulations as may be necessary to implement the crop insurance
28 scheme;
29 (f) To insure the crops of farmers and fishpond, seaweed, oyster, or
30 mussel farm of fisherfolk against losses, damages and destruction
31 caused by rodents, vermin, diseases, insects, and other pests and
32 natural calamities such as typhoons, floods, droughts, earthquakes,
33 volcanic eruptions; and to carry on any business necessary, related to
34 and expedient for the above purpose;

- 1 (g) To insure in the Philippines or abroad, all or any risk of the PCIC;
- 2 (h) To purchase or otherwise acquire ownership and manage any and all
3 parts of the business, property, and liabilities of any person or company
4 carrying on any business which the PCIC is authorized to carry on or
5 possess;
- 6 (i) To acquire by purchase or otherwise acquire ownership of and to invest
7 in, hold, sell, or otherwise dispose of, stocks or bonds or any interest in
8 either, or any obligation or evidence of indebtedness of any corporation,
9 domestic or foreign, or the bonds or any obligation or evidence of
10 indebtedness, of any person, firm or corporation; and as owner of such
11 stocks, bonds or interest therein, or other obligations or evidence of
12 indebtedness, to exercise the rights, powers and privileges of
13 ownership, including the right to vote thereon or consent in respect
14 thereto for any and all lawful purposes;
- 15 (j) To purchase or otherwise acquire, sell, lease, convey, mortgage,
16 encumber, or otherwise deal with any property, real or personal, or any
17 interest therein; extend credit on the security of real estate or movable
18 property; exercise easement right or privilege over or in respect to any
19 property, real or personal, as may be permitted by law and as may be
20 reasonable or necessary to carry out the purposes for which the PCIC
21 is formed or as may or hereafter be permitted by law;
- 22 (k) To establish branches whenever it may be expedient and necessary;
23 and
- 24 (l) To generate internal funds by floating bonds, expanding the PCIC's
25 insurance lines to include agricultural guarantee loans, and extending
26 coverage to other areas of agriculture, such as livestock, aquaculture,
27 fishery, agroforestry and forest plantations, in order to address the
28 insurance needs of the target sector and to do and perform acts and
29 things and to exercise all the general powers conferred by law upon the
30 PCIC as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the objectives
31 of the PCIC.

32 SEC. 5. *Who shall be Insured.* – It shall be compulsory for farmers to take
33 out insurance for *palay* and other crops essential for food security, as determined
34 by the Department of Agriculture (DA). For other crops, insurance coverage shall

1 be compulsory upon all farmers obtaining production loans under the supervised
2 credit program of the government and optional on the part of self-financed farmers:
3 *Provided*, That they agree to place themselves under the supervision of agricultural
4 production technicians.

5 As used in this Act, the term *supervised credit program* refers to the
6 production credit program wherein the farmer who obtains production loans agrees
7 in writing to apply proven farm practices necessary to conserve the land, improve
8 its fertility and increase its production, and abide by the approved farm plan and
9 budget jointly prepared by such farmer and the duly accredited supervised credit
10 technician.

11 The term *supervision of agricultural production technician* refers to the
12 supervision, pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 409, dated March 11, 1974,
13 undertaken by agricultural production technicians who are duly accredited by the
14 appropriate government agencies concerned, as required under the supervised
15 credit program of the government.

16 SEC. 6. *Rate of Premium, Sharing, and Amount of Indemnity.* – The rate
17 of premium, as well as the allocated sharing thereof of farmers, fisherfolk, lending
18 institutions, the government of the Republic of the Philippines, hereinafter referred
19 to as the Government, and other parties, shall be determined by the Board of
20 Directors of the PCIC, hereinafter referred to as the Board: *Provided*, That the share
21 of the Government in the premium cost in the form of premium subsidy shall be
22 limited to subsistence farmers and fisherfolk: *Provided, however*, That each of these
23 subsistence farmers is cultivating not more than seven (7) hectares of farmland and
24 each fisherfolk is cultivating not more than five (5) hectares of fishpond, seaweed,
25 oyster, or mussel farm by themselves or with the help of the labor of the members
26 of their households or hired labor, the premium rate and sharing to be determined
27 by the Board: *Provided, further*, That the premium share of the subsistence farmer
28 or fisherfolk shall be reasonably affordable: *Provided, furthermore*, That the
29 Government shall share in the premium cost only in insurance coverage against
30 unforeseen and unavoidable risks such as typhoons, droughts, rainfall, or outbreaks
31 of pests or diseases; *Provided, finally*, That premium subsidy or insurance benefits
32 shall, upon the accumulation of surplus funds, be increased to such amount as may
33 be determined by the Board.

1 The amount of indemnity shall be determined by the Board, which shall take
2 into account the value of the potential harvest of crops at the ripening stage, actual
3 cost of production inputs already applied at the time of loss per farm plan and budget
4 subject to limits stipulated in the policy contract, pro-rated cost of the harvested
5 crops, the salvage value, if any, and the percentage of yield loss.

6 *SEC. 7. Premium Subsidy. –*

7 (a) The required government premium subsidy, as determined by the Board
8 and approved by the President of the Philippines, shall be deemed
9 appropriated from the funds of the National Treasury not otherwise
10 appropriated, and shall be drawn, on a month-to-month or other periodic
11 bases, depending upon the actual amount of insurance underwritten by
12 the PCIC. For this purpose, the PCIC shall bill the Government the sum
13 of money corresponding to the computed amount of subsidy;

14 (b) Yearly projections of the premium subsidy shall be submitted by the
15 PCIC to the President of the Philippines, and upon approval, shall be
16 included in the government's budgetary appropriation;

17 (c) Calamity funds earmarked by the government shall include a certain
18 percentage for crop insurance and shall be released to and administered
19 by the PCIC;

20 (d) Ten percent (10%) of the net earnings of the Philippine Charity
21 Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) from its lotto operation shall be earmarked
22 for the Crop Insurance Program and said amount shall be directly
23 remitted by the PCSO to the PCIC every six (6) months until the amount
24 of government subscription is fully paid.

25 *SEC. 8. Capital Stock. –*

26 (a) The authorized capital stock of the PCIC is Ten billion
27 (P10,000,000,000.00) pesos, divided into seventy-five million
28 (75,000,000) common shares with par value of One hundred (P100)
29 pesos per share, which shall be fully subscribed by the government, and
30 twenty-five million (25,000,000) preferred shares with a par value of One
31 hundred (P100) pesos per share;

32 (b) The common capital stock of One billion five hundred million
33 (P1,500,000,000.00) pesos having been fully paid to the PCIC, the

1 balance of Six billion (P6,000,000,000.00) pesos to be subscribed by the
2 government shall be appropriated annually by Congress.

3 (c) The preferred shares shall be given priority over common shares in the
4 declaration of dividends and in the distribution of assets in the event of
5 liquidation of the PCIC. Preferred shares shall have the following specific
6 features:

- 7 i. As to dividends, they shall be entitled to a minimum interest rate
8 of one and half percent (1.5%) or the prevailing 360-day Treasury
9 bill rate at the time of declaration of dividends, whichever is higher;
- 10 ii. They shall be cumulative, non-participating, and nonvoting;
- 11 iii. The dividends thereon shall be exempt from income tax;
- 12 iv. They shall be redeemable at the option of the PCIC at the
13 prevailing book value but in no case less than par after five (5)
14 years from issuance thereof; and
- 15 v. They shall be transferrable.

16 (d) At least Five hundred million (P500,000,000.00) pesos of preferred
17 shares shall be subscribed and paid for by the Land Bank of the
18 Philippines (LANDBANK). The balance of the preferred shares may be
19 available for sale or subscription by the general public.

20 *SEC. 9. Reserve Fund for Catastrophic Losses.* – A State Reserve Fund,
21 herein referred to as the Fund, for catastrophic losses in the amount of Five hundred
22 million (P500,000,000.00) pesos shall be created exclusively to answer for the
23 proportion of all losses in excess of risk or pure premium under the PCIC's Crop
24 Insurance Program for small farmers and fisherfolk. The Fund may be increased,
25 subject to the approval of the President of the Philippines. The Fund shall be
26 administered by the government financial institution to be designated by the PCIC's
27 Board. Such sum as may be necessary for the purpose shall be funded by the
28 government through the annual General Appropriations Act. The mechanics of
29 claims against the Fund and to what extent the Fund shall be liable shall be
30 determined jointly with the financial institution administering the Fund, subject to the
31 approval of the President of the Philippines.

32 *SEC. 10. Reinsurance.* – In order to spread the risk of the PCIC, it is hereby
33 authorized to seek reinsurance protection whenever it may be available.

1 SEC. 11. *Board of Directors.* – The powers of the PCIC shall be vested in
2 and exercised by its Board of Directors, composed of seven (7) members as follows:

- 3 1. President of the LANDBANK;
- 4 2. President of the PCIC;
- 5 3. Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA);
- 6 4. Representative from the private insurance industry to be nominated by
7 the Secretary of Finance; and
- 8 5. Three (3) representatives from the subsistence farmers' sector,
9 preferably representing agrarian reform beneficiaries, cooperatives, or
10 associations coming from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, who shall be
11 selected and nominated by the different farmers' organizations or
12 cooperatives.

13 The respective nominees of the private insurance industry and the farmers'
14 sector shall be submitted to and appointed by the President of the Philippines. The
15 Chairperson of the Board shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines from
16 among the members of the Board. The President of the PCIC shall also be
17 appointed by the President of the Philippines and shall be the *ex officio* Vice
18 Chairperson who shall assist and act as Chairperson in case of the latter's absence
19 or incapacity.

20 In case of absence or incapacity of both the Chairperson and Vice
21 Chairperson, the Board shall designate a temporary Chair from among its members.
22 Except for the President of the LANDBANK and the Secretary of the DA, all
23 members of the Board, including the President of the PCIC, shall be appointed by
24 the President of the Philippines within a reasonable period of time after the approval
25 of this Act.

26 The members of the Board may designate their respective alternates who
27 shall attend the meetings in their absence or incapacity.

28 The Board shall meet regularly at least twice a month or as often as the
29 exigencies of the PCIC's affairs demand. The presence of at least five (5) members
30 shall constitute a quorum which shall be necessary for the transaction of any
31 business. In the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson shall preside
32 over the meeting of the Board.

33 The Chairperson and the members of the Board shall each receive *per diem*
34 pursuant to existing law for each meeting of the Board actually attended: *Provided,*

1 That in the case of the representatives of the subsistence farmers' sector, the Board
2 is authorized to provide funds to defray the cost of reasonable travel expenses and,
3 if necessary, subsistence expenses in addition to *per diem*.

4 SEC. 12. *Powers and Functions of the Board of Directors.* – The Board
5 shall have the following powers and functions:

6 (a) Implement the provisions and purpose of this Act;

7 (b) Determine the rate of premium, as well as the allocated sharing thereof
8 of farmers, fisherfolk, lending institutions, the Government, and other
9 parties;

10 (c) Formulate and adopt policies and plans, and promulgate rules and
11 regulations for the management, operation and conduct of the affairs and
12 business of the PCIC and, for this purpose, may limit or refuse insurance
13 in any area or on any farmer because of the risk involved or may expand
14 the subject of insurance coverage to crops other than *palay* and other
15 crops essential for food security: *Provided*, That such coverage on other
16 crops shall be approved by the President of the Philippines;

17 (d) Borrow funds from local and international financing sources or institutions
18 and issue bonds up to five (5) times the value of its authorized capital
19 stock for the purpose of financing the programs and projects deemed vital
20 for the attainment of the PCIC's goals and objectives;

21 (e) Enter into, make, and execute contracts of any kind or nature as may be
22 necessary or incidental to the accomplishment of the purposes of the
23 PCIC;

24 (f) Approve the budget of the PCIC and fix the reasonable compensation of
25 its personnel: *Provided*, That the Board shall have exclusive and final
26 authority to promote, transfer, assign or reassign personnel of the PCIC:
27 *Provided further*, That these personnel actions are deemed made in the
28 interest of the service and not disciplinary in nature or purpose;

29 (g) Establish the policies and guidelines for the employment of personnel on
30 the basis of merit, technical competence and moral character, and
31 approve a staffing pattern of personnel defining their powers and duties;
32 and

33 (h) Exercise the general powers mentioned in Republic Act No. 11232,
34 otherwise known as the "Revised Corporation Code of the Philippines",

1 insofar as these are not inconsistent or incompatible with the provisions
2 of this Act.

3 SEC. 13. *Management.* – The management of the PCIC shall be vested in
4 its President, who shall be a person of known integrity and technical and managerial
5 competence. There shall also be Vice Presidents as the Board may decide, to be
6 appointed by the Board. The President of the PCIC shall have the following powers
7 and duties:

8 (a) Execute and administer the policies, plans and rules and regulations
9 approved and promulgated by the Board;

10 (b) Submit for the consideration of the Board such policies, plans and
11 programs deemed necessary to carry out the provisions and purposes of
12 this Act;

13 (c) Direct and supervise the operations and internal administration of the
14 PCIC and, for this purpose, to delegate some or any power and duty to
15 subordinate officials;

16 (d) Recommend to the Board the appointment, promotion, transfer,
17 assignment, reassignment, demotion, dismissal, and compensation of
18 personnel; and

19 (e) To exercise such other powers and perform such other duties as may be
20 directed by the Board.

21 SEC. 14. *Settlement of Claims.* –

22 (a) Claims for indemnity against the PCIC shall be settled by the PCIC's
23 regional manager concerned or the appropriate officer to whom the
24 function is delegated. However, if in the opinion of the regional manager
25 the claim is novel, difficult, or controversial, the matter may be elevated
26 by the regional manager to the President of the PCIC for decision;

27 (b) The claimant aggrieved by the decision of the regional manager may,
28 within thirty (30) days from receipt of the decision, request for
29 reconsideration thereof, and if not satisfied therewith, elevate the matter
30 to the President of the PCIC;

31 (c) Any party aggrieved by a decision, order, or ruling of the President of the
32 PCIC may appeal said decision, order, or ruling to the Board;

33 (d) Any claim not acted upon within sixty (60) days from submission of
34 complete claims documents to the PCIC shall be considered approved.

1 SEC. 15. *No Claim Benefits.* – Any insured farmer or fisherfolk who has not
2 filed any claims during the immediately preceding three (3) crop seasons, or any
3 insured fishpond or fish cage operator who has not filed any claim during the
4 immediately preceding three (3) harvest seasons shall be entitled to a no-claim
5 benefit of at least ten percent (10%) of premium share paid for said crop seasons,
6 to be deposited in a trust fund to be managed by the PCIC. Such trust fund may be
7 used to finance premium rebate or premium credit applicable to the immediately
8 following crop seasons as determined by the Board.

9 SEC. 16. *Commission on Audit.* – The Chairperson of the Commission on
10 Audit shall be the *ex officio* auditor of the PCIC.

11 SEC. 17. *Legal Counsel.* – The PCIC shall have its own Legal Department,
12 the head and members of which shall be appointed by the Board.

13 SEC. 18. *Interagency Linkages.* –

14 (a) To support and promote the objectives of the PCIC, all government
15 departments, bureaus, offices, agencies and instrumentalities, national
16 or local, all lending institutions, government or private, now or hereafter
17 engaged in the supervised credit program to farmers and fisherfolk and
18 such other public or private entities as may be called upon by the PCIC,
19 shall act as its cooperating agencies and, for this purpose, are hereby
20 directed to harmonize their policies, programs, rules, and regulations with
21 the objectives of the PCIC.

22 (b) All lending institutions granting production loans for *palay*, corn, and other
23 crops under the supervised credit program of the government shall
24 automatically act as underwriters for and on behalf of the PCIC. As such,
25 they shall receive and process applications for insurance coverage,
26 approve those found in order and collect premiums therefor. Premiums
27 so collected, together with the premiums payable by the lending institution
28 itself, shall be remitted in the manner and within such period as the PCIC
29 may prescribe.

30 SEC. 19. *Utilization of Profits.* - The profits of the PCIC shall be determined
31 on a calendar year basis and the manner of its distribution shall be determined by
32 law.

33 SEC. 20. *Tax Subsidy.* – The PCIC may avail of the Tax Expenditure
34 subsidy administered by the Fiscal Incentives Review Board (FIRB), subject to the

1 provisions of Title XIII (Tax Incentives) of the National Internal Revenue Code of
2 1997, as amended, Executive Order No. 93, as amended and the annual General
3 Appropriations Act: *Provided*, That persons or other entities transacting business
4 with the PCIC shall pay the applicable taxes.

5 SEC. 21. *Penal Provisions.* –

6 (a) The claimant or any person who, through malfeasance or misfeasance or
7 nonfeasance, allows a spurious claim to be paid, including that of the
8 claimant, shall upon final conviction be punished by imprisonment of not
9 less than three (3) years but not more than eight (8) years or a fine of not
10 less than One hundred thousand (P100,000.00) pesos but not more than
11 Six hundred thousand (P600,000.00) pesos, or both imprisonment and
12 fine, at the discretion of the Court. The PCIC's personnel who allowed the
13 commission of the offense shall, in addition, be dismissed from office and
14 forfeit all privileges and benefits which may accrue to such personnel;

15 (b) Any person or entity granting production loan for *palay* under the
16 supervised credit program of the government without requiring crop
17 insurance therefor or having collected premiums from farmers, would fail
18 to remit the same within the time and place specified in the rules and
19 regulations of the PCIC shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine not
20 exceeding Ten thousand (P10,000.00) pesos or imprisonment not
21 exceeding six (6) months or both, at the discretion of the Court;

22 (c) Any person who shall violate any provision of this Act or any rule or
23 regulation issued for its implementation, for which no penalty is provided,
24 shall be deemed guilty of a penal offense and, upon conviction, be
25 punished by a fine not exceeding Five thousand (P5,000.00) pesos or
26 imprisonment of two (2) months, or both, at the discretion of the court.
27 Whenever any violation of the provisions of this section is committed by
28 a corporation or association, or by a government office or entity, the
29 executive officer or officers of said corporation, association, or
30 government office or entity who shall have knowingly permitted or failed
31 to prevent said violation shall be liable as principal.

32 SEC. 22. *Applicability of Presidential Decree (PD) No. 612, as Amended.*

33 – The provisions of Presidential Decree No. 612, as amended, otherwise known as

1 the "The Insurance Code", insofar as they are not in conflict or inconsistent with or
2 repugnant to the provisions of this Act, shall apply to the PCIC.

3 SEC. 23. *Term of Existence and Periodic Review.* – The PCIC's term of
4 legal existence, which was set to last for fifty (50) years starting from the date of
5 approval of Presidential Decree No. 1467 on June 11, 1978, shall continue and is
6 hereby affirmed. To ensure the PCIC's continuing relevance, the Board shall
7 undertake periodic reviews of the PCIC's activities and shall submit to both houses
8 of Congress, at least once a year, a report which shall include a recommendation
9 for improving its services to the target sectors and the financial viability of the PCIC.

10 SEC. 24. *Transitory Provisions.* – The members of the Board representing
11 the private insurance industry and the three (3) representatives from the farmers'
12 sector shall, in an interim capacity, continue to exercise their powers and functions
13 as part of the Board and carry out the provisions of this Act without need to be
14 issued new appointments until a new Board is constituted and organized.

15 To prevent disruption in the delivery of services, the PCIC shall, pending the
16 full implementation of this Act, continue to operate and provide services to its clients
17 and all its officials and employees shall continue to perform their duties and
18 functions and receive their corresponding salaries and benefits. The approval of this
19 Act shall not cause any demotion in rank or diminution of salary, benefits, and other
20 privileges of the incumbent personnel of the PCIC: *Provided*, That qualified officers
21 and employees may voluntarily elect for retirement or separation from service and
22 shall be entitled to benefits under existing laws.

23 SEC. 25. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held
24 unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected shall remain in force and
25 effect.

26 SEC. 26. *Repealing Clause.* – Presidential Decree No. 1467, as amended
27 by Presidential Decree No. 1733 and Republic Act No. 8175, is hereby repealed.
28 All other laws, executive orders, and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent
29 with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

30 SEC. 27. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
31 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,