

PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR THE UNLAWFUL-EJECTION, EXCLUSION, REMOVAL OR OUSTER OF TENANT FARMERS FROM THEIR FARMHOLDINGS.

PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 583, November 16, 1974

Read online (full-text search, related cases, audio case brief): <https://batas.org/library/a12529a13499/>

WHEREAS, I have declared in various decrees, letters of instructions and other orders, as well as in my speeches and other oral pronouncements that the land reform program is an urgent and vital social and economic reform under the New Society;

WHEREAS, the determination of the Government to implement the program has been demonstrated by various acts, including the revitalization of agencies implementing the program such as the Department of Agrarian Reform and the Land Bank, and the channeling of a major portion of government resources to the program, as well as the promulgation of decrees, letters of instructions and other orders designed to hasten the implementation of the program and the protection of the tenants;

WHEREAS, notwithstanding all the foregoing, there remains a strong resistance to the program on the part of some of our citizen, including government officials and this has been made evident by direct acts such as the ejection of tenant-farmers notwithstanding the prohibition against ejection of tenant-farmers under Presidential Decree No. 316, and some subtle schemes intended to obstruct the progress of the program or to keep the tenants in perpetual bondage under a feudalistic system of landownership;

WHEREAS, these acts or schemes against a vital program of the New Society cannot be allowed, and will not be allowed, to remain unpunished or without sanction from the Government.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FERDINAND E. MARCOS, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers in me vested by the Constitution, do hereby decree and order:

SECTION 1. In view of the determination of the Government to emancipate the tenant-farmers from a feudalistic system of landownership, it is hereby declared a policy of the State, in furtherance of its desire to protect the tenant-farmers, that no acts or schemes designed to obstruct the implementation of land reform program or obviously in derogation of the rights of tenant-farmers shall remain unpunished.

SEC. 2. Any judge of the Court of Agrarian Relations, Court of First Instance, City or Municipal Court or any fiscal or other investigating officer, including members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, who shall order the ejection, ouster, exclusion or removal of any tenant-farmer from the land tilled by him or who shall take cognizance of any ejection case or any other similar case designed to exclude, oust, eject or remove a tenant-farmer from the land tilled by him without first complying with the provisions of Presidential Decree No. 316 shall, upon conviction, be punished by prison mayor and perpetual absolute disqualification.

SEC. 3. Any official or employee of the Government, including members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, who executes an order for the ouster, removal, exclusion or ejection of a tenant-farmer, knowing that the order is unlawful as provided under Section 2 of this Decree shall, upon conviction, suffer the penalty of prison

correccional and perpetual absolute disqualification.

SEC. 4. Unless previously authorized by the Secretary of Agrarian Reform, any land-owner who converts his tenanted land primarily devoted to rice and corn into any non-agricultural use or to the production of any other crop as a means to avoid the application of the land reform laws or decrees to his landholdings and to dispossess his tenant-farmers of the land tilled by them shall, upon conviction, suffer the penalty of prision mayor or a fine ranging from P5,000.00 to P10,000.00 or both, at the discretion of the court.

The same penalty shall be imposed on a landowner who by any other act, scheme or strategy shall eject, exclude, remove or oust and/or cause the ouster, exclusion, removal or ejectment of a tenant-farmer from his farm-holding in contravention of decrees, laws, and other orders on land reform.

SEC. 5. Repealing Clause. — All provisions of existing laws, orders, decrees, rules and regulations inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 6. Effectivity of this Decree.—This Decree shall take effect immediately.

Done in the City of Manila, this 16th day of November, in the year of Our Lord, nineteen hundred and seventy-four.

(Sgd.)

FERDINAND E. MARCOS

President of the Philippines

By the President:

(Sgd.)

ALEJANDRO MELCHOR

Executive Secretary

ABOUT BATAS.ORG

Study smarter at BATAS.org

The Philippine bar review and law-school companion built around how your brain actually remembers.

The complete Philippine law library - free for everyone.

More than 100,000 Supreme Court decisions, Republic Acts, and executive issuances - full-text searchable, browsable by category and year, and always free. No paywall, no login. This PDF came from it.

Audio case-brief lectures.

Any decision becomes a podcast-style lecture - facts, issues, ruling, and doctrine - with read-along highlighting and a hands-free presentation mode. Study while commuting, working out, or resting your eyes.

Bar review built on the science of memory.

Complete, sequenced courses for all eight bar subjects, narrated like podcasts and reinforced with retrieval practice and spaced review - the study techniques with the strongest evidence behind them.

The full law-school curriculum.

One subscription unlocks the entire J.D. curriculum - every subject, every lesson, with your progress tracked down to the paragraph so you can pick up exactly where you left off, on any device.

Mock exams that tell you where you stand.

Timed multiple-choice exams graded instantly, with per-subject score breakdowns and focus suggestions that point you at your weakest topics first.

A study planner that keeps you on pace.

Set your schedule and BATAS tells you every day whether you are on track for bar day - and exactly which lesson to take next.

Start free at <https://batas.org>

The law library is free forever - and your first lesson is one click away.

The text of this document is an official public record and remains in the public domain. Formatting, presentation, and compilation © 2026 batas.org.

Downloaded free from the batas.org Law Library. Share it freely - the library is free for every law student, bar reviewee, and practitioner.