

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6940, March 28, 1990]

**AN ACT GRANTING A PERIOD ENDING ON DECEMBER 31, 2000
FOR FILING APPLICATIONS FOR FREE PATENT AND JUDICIAL
CONFIRMATION OF IMPERFECT TITLE TO ALIENABLE AND
DISPOSABLE LANDS OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN UNDER CHAPTERS
VII AND VIII OF THE PUBLIC LAND ACT (CA 141, AS AMENDED)**

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

SECTION 1. Paragraph 1, Section 44, Chapter VII of Commonwealth Act No. 141, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 44. Any natural-born citizen of the Philippines who is not the owner of more than twelve (12) hectares and who, for at least thirty (30) years prior to the effectivity of this amendatory Act, has continuously occupied and cultivated, either by himself or through his predecessors-in-interest a tract or tracts of agricultural public lands subject to disposition, who shall have paid the real estate tax thereon while the same has not been occupied by any person shall be entitled, under the provisions of this Chapter, to have a free patent issued to him for such tract or tracts of such land not to exceed twelve (12) hectares."

SEC. 2. Section 45, Chapter VII of Commonwealth Act No. 141, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 45. The President of the Philippines, upon recommendation of the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, shall from time to time fix by proclamation the period within which applications for free patents may be filed in the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office or region specified in such proclamation, and upon the expiration of the period so designated, unless the same be extended by the President, all the land comprised within such district, chartered city, province, municipality or region subject thereto under the provisions of this Chapter may be disposed of as agricultural public land without prejudice to the prior right of the occupant and cultivator to acquire such land under this Act by means other than free patent. The time to be fixed in the entire Archipelago for the filing of applications under this Chapter shall not extend beyond December 31, 2000, except in the provinces of Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Cotabato, South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Bukidnon, Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur, Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Davao Oriental, Sulu, Mt. Province, Benguet, Kalinga-Apayao, Ifugao, Maguindanao, Tawi-Tawi, and Basilan where the President of the Philippines, upon the recommendation of the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, shall determine or fix the time beyond which the filing of applications under this Chapter shall not