

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1409, September 09, 1955]

**AN ACT TO AMEND CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT
NUMBERED TWELVE HUNDRED SIXTY-SEVEN.**

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

SECTION 1. Section one of Republic Act Numbered Twelve hundred sixty-seven is amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 1. *Creation.*—For the enforcement of all laws and regulations governing the relation of capital and labor on all agricultural lands under any system of cultivation, there is hereby created a Court of Agrarian Relations, which shall be under the executive supervision of the Department of Justice."

SEC. 2. Section two of the same Act is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 2. *The Court; its Composition.*—The Court shall consist of an Executive Judge and eight Associate Judges with the rank of Judges of the Court of First Instance, who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines with the consent of the Commission on Appointments of the Congress. There shall be no seniority in rank among the Associate Judges by reason of service or otherwise.

"The Judges may be suspended or removed in the same and upon the same grounds as the Judges of Court of First Instance.

"The Court shall keep a record of its procedure and its orders or decisions shall be appealable directly to the Supreme Court, in accordance with the provisions of sections twelve and thirteen."

SEC. 3. The first paragraph of section three of the same Act is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 3. *Qualifications of Judges; their Tenure of Office Compensation; Oath of Office; and Vacation Period.*—The Executive Judge and the Associate Judges shall have the same qualifications as Judges of the Court of First Instance and, in addition, shall have engaged in the actual practice of law or shall have held a government position requiring the qualifications of a lawyer for at least ten years prior to their

appointments and must be at least thirty-five years of age. They shall hold office during good behavior until they reach the age of seventy years or become incapacitated to discharge the duties of their office."

SEC. 4. The first paragraph of section six of the same Act is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 6. *The Court; its Seat.*—The Court of Agrarian Relations, except for the Executive Judge who shall sit in Manila and the adjacent provinces and perform the administrative functions of the Court, shall have its seat in the capital of the province where each Judge is assigned. The Executive Judge shall assign at least one Judge to any province who shall hear and decide matters and/or cases brought before the Court under the provision of this Act. The decision of one Judge on any matter or case brought before the Court shall be the decision of the Court."

SEC. 5. Section seven of the same Act is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 7. *Jurisdiction of the Court.*—The Court shall have original and exclusive jurisdiction over the entire Philippines, to consider, investigate, decide, and settle all questions, matters, controversies or disputes involve all those relationships established by law which determine the varying rights of persons in the cultivation and use of agricultural land where one of the parties works the land: *Provided, however,* That cases pending in the Court of Industrial Relations upon approval of this Act which are within the jurisdiction of the Court of Agrarian Relations, shall be transferred to, and the proceedings therein continued in, the latter court."

SEC. 6. The first paragraph of section ten of the same Act is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 10. *Rules of Procedure.*—The Court of Agrarian Relations shall adopt its rules of procedure and shall have such other powers as generally pertain to a court of justice: *Provided, however,* That in the hearing, investigation and determination of any question or controversy and in exercising any duty and power under this Act, the Court shall, in the hearing and determination of cases pending before it, not be bound strictly by the technical rules of evidence."

SEC. 7. Section twelve of the same Act is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 12. *Execution of Orders or Decisions.*—At the expiration of fifteen days from notice of the order or decision, judgment shall be entered in accordance therewith, unless during said fifteen days an aggrieved party shall move for a reconsideration of the order or decision or appeal