

1950

Speeches/Documents

Title: General regulations governing the organisation of peasants' associations

Author:

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Source:.

Description:. Adopted by the Government Administration Council on July 14, 1950. are legal organs in the rural areas for reforming the agrarian system

CHAPTER I GENERAL PRINCIPLES

ARTICLE 1

Peasants' associations are mass organisations of peasants formed on a voluntary basis.

ARTICLE 2

The tasks of peasants' associations are:

a.

To unite farm labourers, poor peasants, middle peasants and all anti-feudal elements in the rural areas, so as to carry out step by step anti-feudal social reforms and to protect the interests of the peasants in accordance with the policy, laws and decrees of the People's Government;

b.

To organise the peasants for production, to set up rural cooperatives, to develop agriculture and subsidiary occupations and to improve the living conditions of the peasants;

c.

To safeguard the political rights of the peasants, to raise the peasants' political and cultural level, and to take part in the construction of a state of people's democracy.

ARTICLE 3

In accordance with the Agrarian Reform Law of the People's Republic of China, peasants' associations

CHAPTER II MEMBERSHIP

ARTICLE 4

Farm labourers, poor peasants, middle peasants, rural handicraftsmen and impoverished revolutionary intellectuals in the rural areas, who voluntarily apply for membership, may become members of a peasants' association if their applications are approved by the committee of a hsiang peasants' association. Any person who is sent to the rural areas as a functionary in the peasant movement may join a peasants' association on the approval of the local peasant mass meeting or peasant congress. After agrarian reform is completed, rich peasants applying for membership may become members of a peasants' association on the approval of a hsiang peasant mass meeting or a hsiang peasant congress.

ARTICLE 5

Members of a peasants' association shall have the following rights:

a.

To speak, to vote, to elect and to be elected in the peasants' association; to propose the dismissal and replacement of functionaries of the peasants' association;

b.

To enjoy the lawful rights and protection offered by the peasants' association;

c.

To have priority in enjoying the cultural, educational and economic facilities provided by the peasants' association.

ARTICLE 6

Members of a peasants' association shall have the following duties:

a.

To abide by the rules of the association;

b.

To obey the organisation;

c.

To carry out decisions;

d.

To pay membership dues.

CHAPTER III ORGANISATION

ARTICLE 7

The basic organisation of a peasants' association is a hsiang (or an administrative village corresponding to a hsiang) peasants' association. Above it are the chu, county, special administrative region and provincial peasants' associations.

For a city, a suburban peasants' association may be formed to unify the leadership of all chu and hsiang peasants' associations in the suburban districts of the said city.

In a Greater Administrative Area, if necessary, the various provincial peasants' associations concerned may, after mutual consultation, convene a Greater Administrative Area peasant congress, in order to form a Greater Administrative Area peasants' association.

ARTICLE 8

The principle governing the organisation of a peasants' association shall be democratic centralism -- the principle of subordination of individual members to the organisation, subordination of minorities to the majority, and subordination of lower organisations to higher organisations.

ARTICLE 9

The organs which exercise the authority of the peasants' associations at all levels shall be the peasant congresses at the same levels. Their functions and powers shall be to determine the policies and plans of the peasant movement, to examine the reports on the work of the committees of the peasants' associations and to elect the committees of the peasants' associations in accordance with government laws and decrees, the instructions of peasants' associations of a higher level, and the wishes of the local peasants.

ARTICLE 10

Delegates to peasant congresses at all levels shall be elected in the following manner:

Delegates to a hsiang peasant congress shall be elected directly by the peasants of the whole hsiang. Peasants who have not yet joined the peasants' association may also, with the approval

of the committee of the hsiang peasants' association, take part in this election. Delegates to county or chu peasant congresses shall be elected by hsiang peasant mass meetings or hsiang peasant congresses. Delegates to provincial or special administrative region peasant congresses shall be elected by county peasant congresses.

The number of delegates to peasant congresses at all levels shall be fixed by the committees of the peasants' associations at the corresponding levels in accordance with the concrete conditions therein, subject to approval by the committees of the respective higher peasants' associations.

ARTICLE 11

The time of meetings of the peasant congresses at all levels shall be fixed according to the rules of the respective provincial peasants' associations.

ARTICLE 12

During the intervals between peasant congresses, the committee of a peasants' association shall be the executive organ of the association. The committees of the peasants' associations at all levels shall be composed of a number of members and candidate members elected by the peasant congresses at all levels. The members shall elect from among themselves a chairman and one to several vice-chairmen to take charge of the affairs of the committee. The committee may establish under it a number of departments to carry out the work by division of labour.

ARTICLE 13

The term of office of the members of the committees of the peasants' associations at all levels shall be laid down in the rules of the respective provincial peasants' associations.

ARTICLE 14

In areas where peasants' associations have not yet been established, the local people's governments may convene a provisional peasant representative conference to elect a number of persons to function as a preparatory committee, which shall carry out the tasks of the committee of a peasants' association and shall have the same functions and powers as those of the committee of a peasants' association. The preparatory committee shall cease to function after a peasant congress has been formally held and has elected the committee of a peasants' association.

ARTICLE 15

The peasant congresses at all levels and the committees of the peasants' associations may take disciplinary measures, according to concrete circumstances, against those who violate the rules and discipline of the association. Disciplinary measures applicable to any individual member shall be: admonition, warning, removal from assigned work or expulsion from the association. Disciplinary measures applicable to an entire organisation shall be: reprimand,

partial reorganisation of its leading body, dismissal of its leading body and appointment of an interim leading body, or dissolution of the entire organisation and sending of functionaries to reorganise the association.

ARTICLE 16

The committees of the peasants' associations at all levels may, when necessary, convene a representative conference of the peasants' associations.

CHAPTER IV THE FUNDS OF PEASANTS' ASSOCIATIONS

ARTICLE 17

The funds of a peasants' association shall come from the membership dues and subsidies of the People's Government.

Each member of a peasants' association shall pay annual membership dues at the rate of one catty of rice.

The People's Government shall provide the peasants' associations with the necessary buildings and equipment. In utilising the facilities of the post, telegraph, telephone, railways, highways, shipping, etc.,

the peasants' associations shall enjoy the same treatment as accorded the People's Government organs of the corresponding level.

ARTICLE 18

A statement of the income and expenditure of the funds of the peasants' associations shall be submitted at fixed intervals to the peasant congress, and shall be made public to the peasants after being audited and approved by the congress.

CHAPTER V BY-LAWS

ARTICLE 19

All provincial peasants' associations shall draw up, in accordance with these General Regulations, their respective unified rules which shall be promulgated and put into effect after ratification by the provincial peasant congress. Regulations which were drawn up prior to the promulgation of these General Regulations, if found to be in conflict with these General Regulations, shall be modified accordingly.

ARTICLE 20

These General Regulations shall be promulgated and put into effect following their adoption by the Government Administration Council of the Central People's Government.