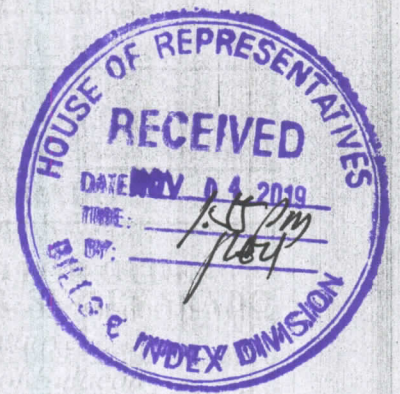


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 5273

Introduced by: **HON. "KUYA" JOSE ANTONIO R. SY-ALVARADO**

AN ACT ESTABLISHING EMERGENCY RICE RESERVES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Rice production is very important to our country. Aside from being a staple food to provide nutrition for most number of Filipinos, it is part of our culture and heritage. Thus, there is a need to provide contingency measure in order to ensure that there will be enough supply of rice to the demands of every Filipino.

The purpose of this bill is to provide a contingency program in order to maintain a functional reserve of rice in case shortage exists in times of national calamity of emergency.

Immediate passage of this bill is respectfully recommended.

"KUYA" JOSE ANTONIO R. SY-ALVARADO^h
Representative
First District of Bulacan

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

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HOUSE BILL NO. _____

Introduced by: "KUYA" JOSE ANTONIO R. SY-ALVARADO

AN ACT ESTABLISHING EMERGENCY RICE RESERVES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:***SECTION 1. Title.** – This Act shall be known as the "Emergency Rice Reserves Act"**SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to ensure an adequate supply of rice at reasonable and affordable rice for the people in times of calamities.**SECTION 3. Definition of Terms.** – As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- a) *Calamities* are fortuitous event which include acts of God such as but not limited to typhoons, floods, droughts, earthquakes, fire, volcanic eruption, lahar flows, and acts of man such as political and/or civil disturbance, and wide-spread civil unrest; and
- b) *Emergency Rice Reserve* is the inventory or stock of rice and/or palay by the National Food Authority (NFA), equivalent to the 15 day average national daily rice consumption to be maintained as a matter of national policy.

SECTION 4. Management. – In order for the National Food Authority (NFA) to effectively perform the functions and responsibilities provided for in this Act, it shall:

- (1) Maintain and manage a government rice reserve equivalent to fifteen (15) days of the national rice consumption for the current year and determine the location and distribution of such stocks into depots nationwide.

Procure stock from small farmers' cooperatives and import only under abnormal conditions determined through consultation with all affected sectors unless directed otherwise by the President. Provided, that the quality of the imported rice shall be regular milled rice, thirty-five percent (35%) broken, or better; Provided further, that if all or part of the initial reserve is important, NFA will have the option to release the imported stocks at a price that will allow it to procure locally its equivalent volume in palay form to maintain the fifteen (15) day rice reserve.

Release to the market of said government rice reserve upon the declaration of a state of calamity by the President of the Republic of the Philippines. Provided that such declaration shall specifically state that NFA rice reserve is to be released to the market upon the recommendation of the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture; provided further, that the release price of said rice shall be based on the prevailing market price immediately prior to the occurrence of the calamity.

SECTION 5. Refill of Emergency Rice Reserve. – The NFA shall ensure that rice stocks are refilled in accordance with the provision of this Act.

SECTION 6. Appropriations. – There shall be appropriated from the funds of the National Treasury a seed money of (PHP 4,000,000,000.00) Four Billion pesos for its initial operations and Constituted into a revolving fund held in trust by NFA used for funding replenishment and as a depository for funds obtained from the sale/monetization of food security stocks. Thereafter, all such amounts as may be necessary for the continued operation of said Fund which shall include the maintenance and/or increase of the Food Security Rice Reserve, shall be automatically appropriated in the General Appropriations Act as approved by Congress.

SECTION 7. Monitoring and Review. – The NFA shall regularly review and assess the national palay and rice situation and, on the bases of the data and information collected, prepare a report to be submitted to the Office of the President and to both Committees on Agriculture of Congress.

SECTION 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The NFA shall, within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, issue the implementing rules and regulations of this Act.

SECTION 9. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act be deemed unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not effected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

SECTION 10. Repealing Clause. – All acts, presidential decrees, executive orders and administrative orders, rules and regulations, and other such issuance or parts of thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 11. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least (2) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,