

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
18TH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Resolution No. 320



Introduced by **REP. EVELINA G. ESCUDERO**

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION INTO THE PRESENT STATE OF FARMERS ESPECIALLY IN THE PLANTING, SALE AND PRICING OF PALAY WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENACTING LEGISLATIVE MEASURES TO ADDRESS THE SAME

WHEREAS, the plight of local farmers, especially in the planting, sale and pricing of palay has become more dismal, with the price per kilo of Php7.00.ⁱ

WHEREAS, such a situation will result in the possible death of the country's rice production industry given that Filipino rice farmers may no longer earn income, worse confronted with debts payable and no livelihood.

WHEREAS, the government must step in to address this urgent matter either in the form of regulation or subsidy, or any other policy deemed viable and applicable.

WHEREAS, there are various opinions identifying the cause of the problem, ranging from bad weather and climate conditions to the implementation of the Rice Tariffication Law or Republic Act No. 11203.ⁱⁱ

WHEREAS, given the urgency of the matter, the President of the Republic has taken the initiative to issue a directive to the National Food Authority (NFA) and the Department of Agriculture (DA) to buy palay from local farmers.

WHEREAS, a definitive and permanent policy must be set not only to address this problem in rice production and pricing but more so to prevent the same from happening at the first instance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Committee on Agriculture and Food to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation into the present state of farmers especially in the planting, sale and pricing of palay with the end in view of enacting legislative measures to address the same.

Adopted,



¹ Ramon L. Clarete, "Rice tariffication problems and measures to deal with them," August 11, 2019. Available at <https://www.bworldonline.com/rice-tariffication-problems-and-measures-to-deal-with-them/>; Eireene Jairee Gomez, "Legislator, farmers' group: Rice Tariffication Law to blame for drop in palay prices," September 03, 2019, Manila Times. Available at <https://www.manilatimes.net/2019/09/03/business/business-top/rice-tariffication-law-to-blame-for-drop-in-palay-prices/610526/>

² "Rice tariffication puts PH food security at risk—IBON," IBON Media, March 2, 2019. Available at <https://www.ibon.org/rice-tariffication-puts-ph-food-security-at-risk-ibon/>; Rhodina Villanueva, Jaime Laude, "Habagat to continue affecting Luzon, Visayas," The Philippine Star, August 11, 2019. Available at <https://www.philstar.com/authors/1805318/jaime-laude>; Madelaine B. Miraflor, "Agri production slumps in Q2; growth almost flat at 0.24%," Manila Bulletin, August 7, 2019. Available at <https://business.mb.com.ph/2019/08/07/agri-production-slumps-in-q2-growth-almost-flat-at-0-24/>