



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 545

Introduced by MAGSASAKA Party-List Representative
ARGEL JOSEPH T. CABATBAT

**A RESOLUTION STRONGLY URGING THE PHILIPPINE CONGRESS
TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO AVERT THE WORSENING CRISIS IN THE
RICE INDUSTRY AND AMELIORATE THE SUFFERINGS OF OUR FARMERS
DUE TO UNIMPEDED IMPORTATION OF RICE**

WHEREAS, the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that the state shall protect Filipino enterprises against unfair foreign competition and trade practices;

WHEREAS, the President of the Republic of the Philippines, Rodrigo Roa Duterte, signed into law Republic Act No. 11203, otherwise known as "*An Act Liberalizing the Importation, Exportation, and Trading of Rice, Lifting for the Purpose the Quantitative Import Restriction on Rice, and for Other Purposes*," on February 14, 2019;

WHEREAS, since its implementation in March 2019, local rice farmers have suffered tremendously due to the significant drop of farmgate prices of fresh palay to its lowest price of Php12.15 per kilo according to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), and down to Php7.00–Php10.00 per kilo as reported by farmers themselves in some rice-producing provinces, triggered by the influx of imported rice in the market;

WHEREAS, under R.A. 11203, the mandate of the National Food Authority (NFA) has been relegated to merely buy from local farmers for our rice buffer stock during emergencies such as disaster and calamities, which, by their own admission, could only afford to purchase less than 10% of the country's total rice production;

WHEREAS, recent reports from the United States Department of Agriculture-Foreign Agricultural Service (USDA-FAS) show that the country is now the biggest importer of rice as it reaches nearly 3 million metric tons in 2019;

WHEREAS, on 19 November 2019, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte has ordered the Department of Agriculture (DA) to suspend rice importation to help local farmers dispose of their rice production this harvest season in the local market;

WHEREAS, the President also conveyed that the government could procure the farmers' rice produce to help them recover from huge losses caused by high production expense and extremely low farm-gate prices;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Philippine Congress shall appropriate funds to avert the worsening crisis in the rice industry and ameliorate the sufferings of our farmers due to unimpeded importation of rice.

Adopted,



ARGEL JOSEPH T. CABATBAT
MAGSASAKA Party-List