

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 6394



Introduced by REP. ANTONIO "TONYPET" T. ALBANO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The implementation of the Rice Tariffication Law adversely affected the farmgate prices of *palay* and the prices of milled locally produced rice and consequently depressed the income of rice farmers. Government needs to immediately provide farmers with needed assistance to enable them to recoup their losses and continue farming. Among the viable modes of assisting farmers is to implement a program where real rice instead of cash will be distributed as rice subsidy to the beneficiaries of the *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program* (4Ps).

The General Appropriations Act of 2020, in Article XXII (A), Special Provisions Paragraph (2) thereof, allows the use of the amount allocated for the cash rice subsidy of 4Ps beneficiaries in the amount of Thirty One Billion Forty Six Million Pesos (P31,046,000,000.00) for the purchase of rice from local farmers for distribution to said beneficiaries in place of the cash rice subsidy. However, the conditions imposed before such use can be undertaken make it more difficult and tedious for government to access the said amount for the purchase of rice from farmers and distribute them to qualified 4Ps beneficiaries

This bill seeks to amend Paragraph 2 of the Special Provisions of Article XXII (A) of Republic Act 11465, the General Appropriations Act of 2020, so as to make it easier and swifter for government to access and mobilize funds for the purchase of *palay* or locally produced rice directly from farmers at the soonest possible time so as to prevent loss or erosion of income among rice farmers and help them earn sufficiently to continue farming.

Immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


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AN ACT
AMENDING PARAGRAPH 2 OF THE SPECIAL PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE
XXII (A) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11465, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2020

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Paragraph 2 of the Special Provisions of Article XXII (A) of
2 Republic Act No. 11465, the General Appropriations Act of Fiscal Year 2020,
3 is hereby amended to read as follows:

4 “2. Rice Subsidy. - The amount of Thirty One Billion Forty Six
5 Million Pesos (P31,046,000,000) appropriated herein under the
6 Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program shall be used for the provision of
7 Rice Subsidy amounting to Six Hundred Pesos (P600) a month in the
8 form of **RICE INSTEAD OF** financial assistance to the qualified 4Ps
9 beneficiaries. [However, when the price of palay drops to a critical level
10 as determined and recommended by the Department of Agriculture,
11 Department of Finance, and National Economic and Development
12 Authority]. The DSWD may enter into a memorandum of agreement
13 (MOA) with the National Food Authority (NFA), **LOCAL GOVERNMENT**
14 **UNITS (LGUS) OR ACCREDITED FARMERS ORGANIZATIONS** for the
15 purchase of **LOCALLY PRODUCED** rice for distribution to the 4Ps
16 beneficiaries. The MOA shall clearly stipulate the mechanisms for the
17 distribution of rice, as well as the monitoring of the beneficiaries. [The
18 Six Hundred Pesos (P600) a month shall also cover all administrative
19 costs in the procurement and distribution of the Twenty (20) kilos of
20 rice per beneficiary.]”

1 **SECTION 2.** Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, executive orders,
2 proclamations, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof
3 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified
4 accordingly.

5 **SECTION 3.** Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect Fifteen
6 (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least
7 two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,