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COMMITTEE MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Agriculture and Food	Substitute House Joint Resolution (HJR) to HJR 16 & HR 322	Deputy Speaker Villafuerte and Rep. Romualdez (Y.)	Authorizing the use of rice subsidy as provided in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) for the purchase of palay from farmers, mandating for the purpose the Departments of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Interior and Local Government (DILG), National Defense (DND), Transportation (DOTr), and Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and the local government units (LGUs), in coordination with the National Food Authority (NFA) and the Department of Agriculture (DA), to directly purchase palay from local farmers and distribute rice subsidy in the form of actual rice, instead of cash	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Wilfrido Mark Enverga (1st District, Quezon), adopted the Substitute House Joint Resolution to HJR 16 and HR 322.</p> <p>Presidential Legislative Liaison Office (PLLO) Secretary Adelino Sitoy expressed optimism that the proposed measure will be certified as urgent by President Rodrigo Duterte once it is adopted by the House and forwarded to the Senate.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Conrado Estrella III (Party-List, ABONO) said that some LGUs are now buying rice directly from local farmers for their programs' rice requirements to cushion the impact of RA 11203 or the Rice Tariffication Law.</p> <p>RA 11203 lifted the quantitative import restriction on rice and liberalized the importation, exportation and trading of rice.</p> <p>DSWD National Program Manager for Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) Gemma Gabuya agreed to the proposal replacing the cash for rice subsidy for the 4Ps beneficiaries with actual rice bought by the NFA from local farmers. She said that the rice subsidy would be pilot tested in Regions I, II, III, IV-A, IV-B, V, and VI from October to December 2019.</p> <p>NFA Assistant Administrator Rex Estoperez said that the NFA is already mapping out areas for the easy distribution of the rice subsidy to the 4Ps beneficiaries.</p> <p>Reps. Argel Joseph Cabatbat (Party-List, MAGSASAKA) and Florencio Noel (Party-List, AN WARAY) suggested that farmer beneficiaries of 4Ps, who usually set aside rice from their harvest for their own consumption, should still be given the rice subsidy of P600 per month instead of actual rice.</p> <p>Former ANAKPAWIS Party-List Rep. Ariel "Ka Ayik" Casilao lauded the Committee for crafting the Resolution, which to him would help address the plight of farmers affected by the Rice Tariffication Law.</p>