

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

332

House Resolution No. _____



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ARGEL JOSEPH T. CABATBAT

RESOLUTION

**DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD AND OTHER
APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO
CONDUCT AN INQUIRY AND INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,
RELATING TO INCREASING NUMBER OF RICE CARTELS AND RICE
SMUGGLING IN THE COUNTRY**

1 **WHEREAS**, the constitution provides that State shall develop a self-reliant
2 and independent national economy effectively controlled by Filipinos and shall
3 promote comprehensive agricultural reform.

4
5 **WHEREAS**, the Philippines is generally known to competitively participate
6 with rice production globally. It has vast plains, various rice producing areas and rich
7 agricultural lands which make it perfect for agricultural farming and production.

8
9 **WHEREAS**, over the past decades, we have seen a dwindling production of
10 rice all over the country due to various factors. Recently, Filipinos mostly hinge on
11 rice importation to sustain the food requirement of the nation.

12
13 **WHEREAS**, rice is an important part of the Filipino Culture. It is our food
14 staple that drives the Filipino forward. Hence, activities relating to Rice Cartels and
15 Rice Smuggling should not be treated like any ordinary offense.

16
17 **WHEREAS**, imported rice entering the country through legal and illegal
18 means, continue to flood the local market including the presence of Rice Cartels and
19 Rice Smuggling. It is also costing the government billions of pesos in unpaid duties
20 and taxes and also killing the local producers.

21
22 **WHEREAS**, rice smuggling and rice cartels does not only deny the
23 government of revenues but also puts out poor Filipino families at the edge of
24 hunger and poverty, forcing them to resort to criminality in order to survive.

25
26 **WHEREAS**, the NFA has been officially stripped of its powers over the import
27 and export of rice and its functions over the domestic rice industry as the Rice
28 Tarrification Law takes effect. This includes the licensing and registration of persons
29 and entities engaged in the grains business, collection of regulatory fees, issuance of
30 negotiable warehouse receipts, warehouse inspection, and authority to seize

31 hoarded stocks and enforce rules and regulations in the grains business, among
32 others.

33 **WHEREAS,** rice smuggling and the presence of rice cartels remain a bane to
34 local rice production because smuggled rice released in the local market and the
35 controlling of the price of rice by cartels further pull down the price of *palay*
36 (*unhusked rice*) produced by local farmers.

37
38 **WHEREAS,** there is a need to conduct a the alarming increase of Rice
39 Importation, the presence of Rice Cartels and Rice Smuggling incidents that directly
40 affect our farmers. And investigate as to the occurring reasons that hamper the
41 government to completely eradicate them.

42
43 **WHEREAS,** there is an overwhelming need to determine and investigate the
44 procedures undertaken and reasons that prompted the rapid increase of rice
45 importation and rice smuggling; and activities of the Rice Cartels that directly
46 impinge on the in come of our local rice farmers.

47
48 **BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED,** that the Committee on
49 Agriculture and Food and other appropriate Committees in the House of
50 Representatives to immediately conduct an investigation in aid of legislation on the
51 above-mentioned issues and circumstance in order to explore possible options on
52 how to alleviate the status and welfare of farmers, and to come out with the
53 necessary legislation for this purpose.

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56 Adopted,

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Rep. ARGEL JOSEPH T. CABATBAT
MAGSASAKA Partylist