

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

18th Congress

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 921



Introduced by HON. JOSE "BONG" J. TEVES, JR.

RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING SUPPORT TO THE REQUEST OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO PASS A SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET IN CONNECTION WITH ITS PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS FOOD SECURITY AND PRICE STABILITY

AMID THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

WHEREAS, the current COVID-19 pandemic has impacted several sectors in our country and one of those seriously affected is the agriculture sector;

WHEREAS, on 10 January 2020, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte signed Executive Order No. 101 creating an Inter-Agency National Food Policy Task Force that will promote sustainable agriculture and create policies to provide food security in our country;

WHEREAS, on 21 March 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Agriculture, through Secretary William Dar, has requested for a supplemental budget in the amount of One Billion Pesos (Php 1,000,000,000.00) to support its programs in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in ensuring food supply availability and price stabilization¹;

WHEREAS, the proposed supplemental budget of the Department of Agriculture will be allocated in part to upscale the "Kadiwa Ni Ani Kita" Project, or the rolling food stores by establishing more outlets in partnership with local chief executives in Metro Manila² in order to ensure continuous and ample food supply at reasonable prices;

² Ibid.

¹https://www.da.gov.ph/da-requests-p1b-supplemental-budget-to-fight-covid-19

WHEREAS, a substantial portion of the proposed supplemental budget will also be earmarked for the extensive promotion of urban agriculture in Metro Manila and other cities, production support in the form of seeds and inputs, support frontline agriculture workers in the form of covering medical assistance, biosecurity measures and financial assistance, and information and communications³;

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture also aims to strengthen its suggested retail price monitoring and enforcement by allocating a certain portion of the proposed supplemental budget to ensure that prices of food will remain affordable and stable⁴;

WHEREAS, as part of his commitment to help alleviate the plight of our countrymen during this COVID-19 pandemic, this representation pledges his full support to the passing of the said supplemental budget for the Department of Agriculture by the House of Representatives;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AS IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that this representation unequivocally expresses his full support to the request of the Department of Agriculture, through the Honorable Secretary William Dar, for the House of Representatives to pass a supplemental budget to fund the various projects of the Department of Agriculture in addressing food security and price stability amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

HON. JOSE BONG" J. TEVES, JR. Representative, TGP Partylist

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.