

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 16



Introduced by **HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**

JOINT RESOLUTION
AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE RICE SUBSIDY AS PROVIDED UNDER THE
PANTAWID PAMILYANG PILIPINO PROGRAM (4PS) IN THE GENERAL
APPROPRIATIONS ACT (GAA) FOR THE PURCHASE OF PALAY FROM FARMERS,
MANDATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND
DEVELOPMENT (DSWD) TO BUY PALAY FROM THE LOCAL FARMERS AND
DISTRIBUTE RICE SUBSIDY IN THE FORM OF ACTUAL RICE INSTEAD OF CASH
ASSISTANCE TO QUALIFIED BENEFICIARIES

WHEREAS, the 2019 General Appropriations Act has provided an allocation for the rice subsidy in the form of financial assistance under the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) in the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) budget;

WHEREAS, the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) program, otherwise known as Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), is a government program that provides conditional cash grants to the poorest of the poor, to improve the health, nutrition, and the education of children aged 0-18. The program has total target beneficiaries of 4.4 million;

WHEREAS, the program grants the beneficiaries rice subsidy in the form of financial assistance in the amount of P600.00 per month, equivalent to 20 kilos of rice. This is in addition to the cash assistance to the same beneficiaries of P300.00 per month or P3,600.00 per year under the 4Ps program. This year the budget for rice subsidy is P28.512B and the same amount is being proposed for the year 2020;

WHEREAS, the rice subsidy in the form of financial assistance under the 4Ps program is being transferred through the existing Land Bank account or cash card of the recipients while those without cash cards or ATM card can get their money through scheduled or coordinated pay-out through the DSWD;

WHEREAS, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte recently ordered the National Food Authority (NFA) to buy *palay*, or unhusked rice, from local farmers. The NFA reported that they have 209,525.15 MT of imported rice in their custody, as of August 22, 2019, and procured locally 360,657 bags of *palay* at 50 kilos per bag or 209,525.15 MT. Currently, the warehouse of NFA is already full. The problem of oversupply is expected to exacerbate during the period from September to October which is the peak *palay* harvest season;

WHEREAS, the local farmers are in need of additional buying stations where they could sell their projected harvest of *palay* during this period;

WHEREAS, in order to help the local farmers, the DSWD is in a position to distribute the rice subsidy under the 4Ps program in the form of actual kilos of rice, instead of cash grant. The DSWD is also in the position to help in the buying of *palay* from farmers, which it can coordinate with the Department of Agriculture (DA). It shall then proceed in distributing rice to the 4Ps beneficiaries who shall receive their rice subsidy from DSWD designated outlets;

WHEREAS, the distribution of rice subsidy shall be in accordance with the procedure, guidelines, and distribution system to be determined by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the *Senate of the Philippines* and the *House of Representatives* in Congress voting separately, to authorize the use of the Rice Subsidy as provided under the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) for the purchase of *palay* from farmers, mandating for the purpose the DSWD to buy *palay* from the local farmers and distribute rice subsidy in the form of actual rice, instead of cash assistance, to the qualified beneficiaries.

ADOPTED,



LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.