

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

Eighteenth Congress  
First Regular Session



**COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 71**

Submitted by the Committee on Agriculture and Food on **NOV 04 2019**

Re: House Joint Resolution No. **22**

Recommending its adoption in substitution of House Joint Resolution No. 16 and House Resolution No. 322

Sponsors: Representatives Wilfrido Mark M. Enverga, Conrado M. Estrella III

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Agriculture and Food to which were referred **House Joint Resolution No. 16**, introduced by Rep. Luis Raymund "L-Ray" F. Villafuerte, Jr., entitled:

"JOINT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE RICE SUBSIDY AS PROVIDED UNDER THE PANTAWID FAMILYANG 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", and

**House Resolution No. 322**, introduced by Reps. Yedda Marie K. Romualdez and Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, entitled:

"RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD), DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DILG), DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE (DND), DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOTR), AND THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR), IN COORDINATION WITH THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) AND THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (DA), TO DIRECTLY BUY BACK PALAY OF THE LOCAL FARMERS FOR THE RICE SUBSIDY PROGRAM"

has considered the same and recommends that the attached House Joint Resolution No. **22**, entitled:

**"JOINT RESOLUTION  
AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE RICE SUBSIDY AS PROVIDED IN THE  
GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT (GAA) FOR THE PURCHASE OF  
PALAY FROM LOCAL FARMERS, MANDATING FOR THE PURPOSE  
THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT  
(DSWD), DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL**

**GOVERNMENT (DILG), DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE (DND), DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOTr), AND THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR), IN COORDINATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (DA) AND THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA), TO DIRECTLY PURCHASE PALAY FROM LOCAL FARMERS AND DISTRIBUTE RICE SUBSIDY ALLOWANCE IN THE FORM OF ACTUAL RICE, INSTEAD OF CASH”**

be adopted with Reps. Luis Raymund “LRay” F. Villafuerte, Jr., Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez Alfredo A. Garbin, Jr., Conrado M. Estrella III, Florencio G. Noel, Manuel T. Sagarbarria, Rosanna “Ria” Vergara, Argel Joseph T. Cabatbat, Alan “Aldu” R. Dujali, Ian Paul L. Dy, Joseph “Jojo” L. Lara, Kristine Singson-Meehan, Faustino Michael Carlos T. Dy, Rico B. Geron, and Wilfrido Mark M. Enverga as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted,



**REP. WILFRIDO MARK M. ENVERGA**

Chairman

Committee on Agriculture and Food

**THE HONORABLE SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
QUEZON CITY**



Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 22**

(In substitution of House Joint Resolution No. 16 and House Resolution No. 322)

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Prepared by the Committee on Agriculture and Food with Representatives Luis Raymund 'L-Ray' F. Villafuerte, Jr., Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, Alfredo A. Garbin, Jr., Conrado M. Estrella III, Florencio G. Noel, Manuel T. Sagarbarria, Rosanna "Ria" Vergara, Argel Joseph T. Cabatbat, Alan "Aldu" R. Dujali, Ian Paul L. Dy, Joseph "Jojo" L. Lara, Kristine Singson-Meehan, Faustino Michael Carlos T. Dy, Rico B. Geron, and Wilfrido Mark M. Enverga as authors thereof

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**JOINT RESOLUTION**

**AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE RICE SUBSIDY AS PROVIDED IN THE GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT (GAA) FOR THE PURCHASE OF PALAY FROM LOCAL FARMERS, MANDATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD), DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DILG), DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE (DND), DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOTr), AND THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR), IN COORDINATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (DA) AND THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA), TO DIRECTLY PURCHASE PALAY FROM LOCAL FARMERS AND DISTRIBUTE RICE SUBSIDY ALLOWANCE IN THE FORM OF ACTUAL RICE, INSTEAD OF CASH**

**WHEREAS**, the government continues to pursue food security for all Filipinos by allotting P 137.1 billion to enhance agricultural productivity, support poor farmers and fisher folk, and strengthen the climate resilience of communities, among others;

**WHEREAS**, on February 2019, Republic Act (R.A.) No. 11203 entitled, "*An Act Liberalizing the Importation, Exportation and Trading of Rice, Lifting for the Purpose the Quantitative Import Restriction on Rice, and For Other Purposes*" was enacted to help support the local rice industry specifically by creating a "Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund" to be allocated and disbursed, as follows: (a) Rice Farm Machineries and Equipment, (b) Rice Seed Development, Propagation, and Promotion, (c) Expanded Rice Credit Assistance, and Rice Extension Services;

**WHEREAS**, despite the efforts made by the government to protect the local rice industry, large stocks of imported rice have depressed the buying price of local *palay*;

**WHEREAS**, the National Food Authority (NFA) reported that 209,525.15 metric tons (MT) of imported rice in its custody as of August 22, 2019, and has procured locally 5,864,007 bags of *palay* or 293,200.35 MT at 50 kilos per bag. 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 latest government statistics (September-October 2019) show that the average *palay* price has plunged to P16.28 per kilogram from P23.10 per kilogram for the same period last year which was the lowest price for *palay* in seven years;

**WHEREAS**, to provide immediate support and assistance to the local rice industry, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte has ordered the NFA to expend their budget of P 7 billion for procuring *palay* or unhusked rice from local farmers;

**WHEREAS**, the 2019 General Appropriations Act (GAA) provides a total allocation of P33.9 billion for rice subsidies, the largest of which is given to the beneficiaries of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) under the '*Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps)*', and that the remaining allocation for the rice subsidy programs of the DILG, DND, DOTr, and the DENR shall also be utilized by the Department of Agriculture (DA), in coordination with the NFA, to buy *palay* directly from local farmers;

**WHEREAS**, the 4Ps grants beneficiaries rice subsidy in the amount of P600.00 per month, which is equivalent to 20 kilos of rice;

**WHEREAS**, under Section 8 of Republic Act No. 11203, the NFA is tasked to buy *palay* from local farmers "*all-year-round*" for the maintenance of a rice buffer stock and can be assigned to undertake direct local buying on behalf of the departments;

**WHEREAS**, local government units (LGUs) have to continually supply the rice requirement of their hospitals, jails, and other institutions, feeding programs and calamity-programs using their own funds to purchase the commodity;

*WHEREAS*, LGUs are encouraged to coordinate with the DA and the NFA in the procurement of their rice requirements; Now therefore be it

***RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED***, to authorize the use of the rice subsidy as provided in the GAA for the purchase of *palay* from local farmers, mandating for the purpose the DSWD, the DILG, the DND, the DOTr, and the DENR, in coordination with the DA and the NFA, to directly purchase *palay* from local farmers and to distribute the rice subsidy allowance to their respective target beneficiaries in the form of actual rice, instead of cash, in accordance with the procedure, guidelines, and distribution system to be determined by the concerned departments and agencies, taking into consideration actual levels of production and possible areas of priority, especially in identified rice-producing provinces.

*Adopted,*