



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 2858

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Introduced by Representative VICTOR A. YAP

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Republic Act 11203 or the Rice Tariffication Act has replaced the qualitative restrictions on rice imports with tariff in order to make rice accessible and more affordable to Filipinos, and to help the rice sector become more competitive. The law amended RA 8178, otherwise known as the Agricultural Tariffication Act of 1996.

Apart from giving direct financial assistance to rice farmers, RA 11203 provided safety nets to the rice sector as it grants the President emergency power to increase, reduce, or adjust existing tariff rates to safeguard Filipino farmers. The law also imposes a special safeguard duty on rice in case of extreme or sudden price fluctuations in accordance with RA 8800 or the Safeguard Measures Act.

This bill aims to strengthen the Rice Tariffication Act by providing a clearer and more immediate safeguard. Under this measure, the real price of rice paddy, determined after consultation with farmers, shall be used as the basis in computing for tariff adjustments on rice. This aims to protect and avoid uncertainties on the part of local producers of rice paddy even when prices fluctuate. This way, farmers will be incentivized to produce in the long term.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



VICTOR A. YAP

Representative, 2nd District of Tarlac

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AN ACT

AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8178, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE AGRICULTURAL TARIFFICATION ACT

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

1 **SECTION 1.** Section 10 of of R.A. No. 8178, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as  
2 follows:

3

4 "SEC. 10. Special Rice Safeguard. – In order to protect the Philippine rice industry from  
5 sudden or extreme price fluctuations, a special safeguard duty on rice shall be imposed in  
6 accordance with R.A. No. 8800, otherwise known as the Safeguard Measures Act" and its  
7 implementing rules and regulations.

8

9 TO PROTECT PRODUCER AND THEIR INCENTIVE TO PRODUCE IN THE LONG  
10 TERM, EVEN WHEN ABNORMAL PRICES FLUCTUATE, THE REAL PRICE OF  
11 RICE PADDY, DETERMINED AFTER CONSULTATION WITH FARMERS, SHALL  
12 BE USED AS THE BASIS IN COMPUTING FOR TARIFF ADJUSTMENTS ON  
13 RICE."

14

15 **SECTION 2.** Separability Clause. - If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act or any part  
16 thereof, or the application of such section, provision or portion is declared invalid or unconstitutional,  
17 all the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid.

18

19 **SECTION 3.** Repealing Clause. – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, proclamations  
20 and/or administrative regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby  
21 amended, modified, superseded or repealed accordingly.

22

23 **SECTION 4.** Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in  
24 the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

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26 Approved.