

Republic of the Philippines  
House of Representatives  
Quezon City

Eighteenth Congress  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5193



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**Introduced by Representative ESTRELLITA B. SUANSING**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to repeal Republic Act No. 11203, otherwise known as “An Act Liberalizing the Importation, Exportation and Trading of Rice, Lifting for the Purpose the Quantitative Import Restriction on Rice, and for Other Purposes.”

Republic Act No. 11203 was signed by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte on February 15, 2019 “to address the urgent need to improve availability of rice in the country, to prevent artificial rice shortage, reduce the prices of rice in the market, and curtail the prevalence of corruption and cartel domination in the rice industry.<sup>1</sup>” The aggressive push of the World Trade Organization (WTO) for the removal of non-trade tariff measures in agriculture to be replaced by a schedule of tariff concessions was an additional factor for the passage of the rice tariffication law.

The lifting of the quantitative restriction on the importation of rice had an unforeseen effect – imported rice is currently flooding the market. However, Filipino farmers are now enduring the negative impacts of the law immediately after its enactment. The Philippine Statistics Authority data shows that the farmgate prices of palay has gone down, from P21<sup>2</sup> to P18 per kilo<sup>3</sup>, farmers from rice producing regions claim that palay prices have gone down to as low as P7 per kilo. While the law provides for the creation of the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund which will be used to directly support the rice farmers, it is not enough to address the woes of our farmers, and that is the massive loss of their only source of livelihood.

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

  
**REP. ESTRELLITA B. SUANSING**

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<sup>1</sup> President Rodrigo Roa Duterte on certifying Senate Bill No. 1998 as urgent, dated October 10, 2018.

<sup>2</sup> 2018 farmgate prices

<sup>3</sup> June 2019 farmgate prices

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AN ACT

**REPEALING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11203, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “AN ACT LIBERALIZING THE IMPORTATION, EXPORTATION AND TRADING OF RICE, LIFTING FOR THE PURPOSE THE QUANTITATIVE IMPORT RESTRICTION ON RICE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”**

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

- 1 **SECTION 1.** Republic Act No. 11203, otherwise known as “An Act Liberalizing  
2 the Importation, Exportation and Trading of Rice, Lifting for the Purpose the  
3 Quantitative Import Restriction on Rice, and for Other Purposes,” is hereby  
4 repealed.
- 5 **SEC. 2.** All laws, decrees, executive orders, letters of instruction, rules and  
6 regulations, issuances, or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby  
7 revoked, repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.
- 8 **SEC. 3.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the  
9 *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,