

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

**Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session**

House Resolution No. 240



Introduced by Representative ESTRELLITA B. SUANSING

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT 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," TO ASCERTAIN THAT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND INSTRUMENTALITIES CONCERNED ARE PERFORMING THEIR RESPECTIVE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES, SPECIALLY INTO THE UTILIZATION OF THE RICE COMPETITIVENESS ENHANCEMENT FUND

WHEREAS, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte signed into law on February 14, 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";

WHEREAS, R.A. No. 11203 amends R.A. 8178, otherwise known as the "Agricultural Tariffication Act of 1996," replacing the quantitative restriction on rice imports with tariffs;

WHEREAS, R.A. No. 11203 creates the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund, referred to as the "Rice Fund," to strengthen the productive capacity of rice farmers with an annual appropriation of Ten billion pesos (₱10,000,000,000.00) for the next six (6) years and allocated as follows:

- a. 50% of the Rice Fund shall be released to and implemented by the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHilMech) as grant in kind for rice farmers in the form of rice farm machineries and equipment to improve farm mechanization;
- b. 30% shall be released to and implemented by the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) and shall be used for the development, propagation and promotion of inbred rice seeds to farmers;

- c. 10% shall be released to and be managed by the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) and the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) and shall be made available in the form of credit facility with minimal interest rates and collateral requirements; and
- d. 10% to be used for skills training of farmers on rice crop production, modern rice farming techniques, seed production, farm mechanization, and knowledge/technology transfer through farm schools nationwide and shall be provided by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), PhilRice and PHilMech.

WHEREAS, tariff revenues collected in excess of Ten billion pesos (₱10,000,000,000.00) within the six (6) year period will be used for rice farmer financial assistance, titling of rice lands, expanding crop insurance and carrying out rice diversification programs;

WHEREAS, prior to the enactment of R.A. No. 11203, the DBM has been reported to release Five billion pesos (₱5,000,000,000.00) to help rice farmers, but only One billion pesos (₱1,000,000,000.00) of which is credited into the farmers' accounts;

WHEREAS, the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of R.A. No. 11203 mandates that a new rice roadmap will be crafted within one hundred eighty (180) days after its effectivity or on September 2, 2019. The new rice roadmap shall be formulated and adopted by the Department of Agriculture, as the lead agency, together with the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Department of Finance (DOF), the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and other concerned agencies.

WHEREAS, PHilMech and PhilRice are reported to still come out with their respective guidelines, which should have been issued fifteen (15) days after the publication of the IRR;

WHEREAS, the delay in the formulation and publication of the agencies' respective guidelines may cause additional concern among rice farmers, who are already apprehensive with the enactment R.A. No. 11203.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, to direct the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the implementation of Republic Act 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," to ascertain that government agencies and instrumentalities concerned are performing

their respective duties and responsibilities, specially into the utilization of the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund.

Adopted,


ESTRELLITA B. SUANSING