

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 375



Introduced by **HON. JOSEPH "JOJO" L. LARA**

A RESOLUTION

URGING THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT TO ALLOCATE AND RELEASE A SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET FOR THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY IN THE AMOUNT OF TEN BILLION PESOS (PHP 10,000,000,000.00) FOR THE PURPOSE OF AIDING OUR LOCAL FARMERS THROUGH THE BUYING OF PALAY AND PROVIDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO EASE THE EFFECTS OF THE DROP IN GATE PRICE OF PALAY AS A RESULT OF THE INFLUX OF IMPORTED RICE IN THE MARKET

Whereas, the average farm-gate price of dry unhusked rice fell to a six-year low in the fifth week of August, according to the latest data released by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA);

Whereas, PSA data showed that as of August 1, total rice stocks expanded by 40.3 percent to 2.133 million metric tons (MMT), higher than the previous year's level of 1.52 million metric tons (MMT), or by 40.3 percent;

Whereas, of the total rice stocks, 37.1 percent were in the households, 41.2 percent were in commercial warehouses, and 21.6 percent in National Food Authority (NFA) depositories;

Whereas, government data on rice imports in the first half showed that shipments expanded by 118.73 percent, or a total of 621.57 million US dollars, from last year's record of 284.18 million US dollars during the same period;

Whereas, according to the Federation of Free Farmers Inc., the farm-gate price of palay will continue to go down due to increase in importation and the upcoming harvest starting October;

Whereas, National Food Authority (NFA) Council has agreed to fix the buying price for clean and dry palay with fourteen (14) percent moisture content at nineteen pesos (P19.00) per kilogram and wet palay with thirty (30) percent moisture content at fourteen pesos (P14.00) per kilogram;

Whereas, the harvest season is once again approaching and the National Food Authority does not have sufficient funds to buy the palay produce of our local farmers;

Whereas, there is a need to increase the budget of the National Food Authority so that it can sustain the purchasing of rice, thereby helping our farmers survive and recover this harvest season;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives urge the national government to allocate and release a supplemental budget for the National Food Authority in the amount of ten billion pesos (php 10,000,000,000.00) for the purpose of aiding our local farmers through the buying of palay and providing financial assistance to ease the effects of the drop in gate price of palay as a result of the influx of imported rice in the market.

Adopted,



JOSEPH "JOJO" L. LARA