

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1932



Introduced by **Hon. Eleuterio R. Violago**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippine rice market has been flooded with imported rice of different varieties and quantities for quite some time now. And to state the obvious, Filipino rice farmers are definitely not in any position to compete with the market prices of imported rice.

Further, it is sad to note that nowhere in the 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines can one find even a single provision on rice self-sufficiency. This proposed legislative measure hopes to at least plug the leak in that regard.

This bill, therefore, seeks to provide the legal boundaries in rationalizing the entry, storage, sale and distribution of imported rice in the country.

It is common knowledge to those in the rice trading industry that old rice stocks from abroad enter the country at a very low price because of their low or no nutritional value. However, many unscrupulous rice traders re-mill their imported rice to make them appear as newly milled rice. Old rice stocks are dull, sticky and has a very poor eating quality. But after re-milling, they are being passed on as new rice stocks to unsuspecting consumers. Further, the mixing of old imported rice with local rice improves the taste of old imported rice stocks but harm our local rice industry..

By prohibiting the re-milling and repacking of imported rice, the mixing of imported with local rice, and the importation of old rice stocks, it is hoped that the quality of rice consumed and bought by Filipinos will no longer be jeopardized.

While the country's rice self-sufficiency program is yet to be put in place, this bill once enacted into law will complement such a program for the benefit of all Filipinos.

Support for the early passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

ELEUTERIO R. VIOLAGO

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AN ACT

RATIONALIZING THE IMPORTATION OF RICE, PROHIBITING THE RE-MILLING, REPACKING AND MIXING OF IMPORTED AND LOCAL RICE VARIETIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

Section 1. Subject to existing regulations on rice importation, it shall be unlawful for any person, natural or juridical, to import rice which are over two (2) months old from the time it has been milled from the country of origin. It shall likewise be unlawful for any person to possess or stock-pile commercial quantities of imported milled rice unless duly authorized by the appropriate government agency.

Sec. 2 No person or entity, whether private or government, shall re-mill or repack imported milled rice, or mix imported milled rice with any local variety, for sale to the public.

Sec. 3. Only legitimate rice millers shall be allowed to possess rice polishing machines. No person or entity shall be allowed to possess rice polishing machines to be used for commercial purposes. Rice polishing machines found to be used to re-polish or re-mill imported milled rice shall be confiscated in favor of the government.

Sec. 4. A fine of not less than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (PhP 100,000.00) but not more than One Million Pesos (PhP 1,000,000.00), including the confiscation of subject imported rice and/or rice polishing machine, shall be imposed for violations of the provisions of this Act.

Further, confiscated rice shall be donated to government hospitals, prisons, the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Home for the Aged, orphanages, drug rehabilitation centers, and such other private/government charitable organizations in the Philippines.

Sec. 5 The National Food Authority, in coordination with the Philippine National Police, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

Sec. 6. All laws, presidential decrees, executive issuances, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, found inconsistent with this Act are hereby expressly repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 7. If, for any reason, whatsoever, any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of the other provisions not declared as such.

Sec. 8. This Act shall take effect upon its approval and fifteen (15) days following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.