



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3060



Introduced by Representative Rico B. Geron

EXPLANATORY NOTE

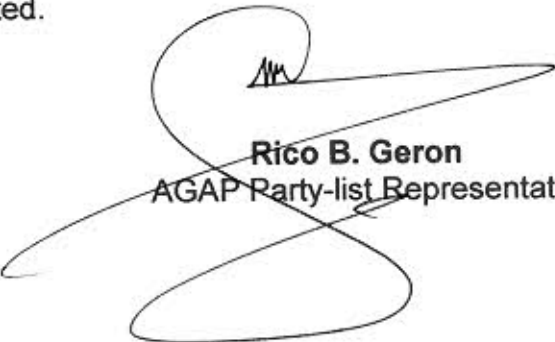
This bill seeks to protect Filipino farmers producing rice by amending the Section 2612 of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines (TCCP), as amended, which governs the disposition of smuggled articles.

For the year 2013 alone, the Bureau of Customs has seized worth P1.2 billion in April and P28 million in July of misdeclared Vietnamese rice shipments. Under the TCCP, these smuggled rice shall be disposed of through an auction and if, unsold for want of bidders, the same may be channeled to government charity institutions like the Department of Social and Welfare Development (DSWD).

Untimely distribution of smuggled rice greatly affects the rice supply in the markets. This distorting situation will be prevented if unexpected rice supply can be regulated by the National Food Authority (NFA), a government agency which has the authority to determine when and where to distribute rice supply in the market without compromising the expected harvest time for the Filipino farmers.

With this measure, disposition of smuggled rice will no longer be auctioned but will be given to the National Food Authority for its disposal.

Approval of this bill is earnestly requested.


Rico B. Geron
AGAP Party-list Representative



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AN ACT
FURTHER PROTECTING THE FILIPINO FARMERS, AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE SECTION 2612 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1464, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE TARIFF AND CUSTOMS CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES OF 1978,
AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Section 2612 of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 2612. Disposition of Smuggled Articles. – Smuggled articles, after liability to seizure or forfeiture shall have been established by proper administrative or judicial proceedings in conformity with the provisions of this Code shall be disposed of as provided for in section twenty-six hundred and ten EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF SMUGGLED RICE WHICH SHALL BE DISPOSED OF BY THE GOVERNMENT DIRECTLY TO THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA): *Provided,* That articles whose importation is prohibited under Section One Hundred Two sub-paragraphs b, c, d, e and j shall, upon order to the Collector in writing, be burned or destroyed, in such manner as the case may require as to render them absolutely worthless, in the presence of a representative each from the Commission on Audit, [Ministry] DEPARTMENT of Justice, Bureau of Customs, and if possible, any representative of the private sector.”

SEC. 2 Rules and Regulations. – The Secretary of Finance shall, upon the recommendation of the Commissioner of Customs and Administrator of the National Food Authority, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 3 Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof which inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 4. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,