

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
FIRST REGULAR SESSION)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Introduced by Representative Maximó B. Rodriguez, Jr. and
Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez

House Bill No. **3099**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is the declared policy of the State to ensure that the food supply is sufficient to meet the need of the people. It is no exaggeration to say that rice is probably the most important commodity on our planet. As food, it dominates the diet of roughly half the world's population, most of them poor. Ironically for us, the Philippines has 14 million hectares of agricultural lands, yet we depend on imported rice.

Early this year, the price of rice has more than doubled basically due to shortage in the market. We are experiencing rice shortage because of rising fuel prices, flooding due to climate change, development of farmland for homes and golf courses, reduced global stocks, rising affluence throughout Asia and Africa and pest outbreak in Vietnam, the world's second largest rice exporter after Thailand. To aggravate the problem, rice farmers and traders are hoarding rice.

This bill seeks to address the problem of rice hoarding and profiteering by declaring it as a crime of economic sabotage.

In view thereof, immediate approval of this Bill is sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Max B. Rodriguez, Jr.".

MAXIMO B. RODRIGUEZ, JR.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rufus B. Rodriguez".

RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ

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AN ACT
MAKING RICE HOARDING AND PROFITEERING A CRIME OF ECONOMIC
SABOTAGE

Section 1. Declaration of Policy. – It is the declared policy of the State to ensure that the food supply is sufficient to meet the needs of the people and to penalize hoarding and profiteering especially in time of disasters and calamities.

Section 2. Rice Hoarding and Profiteering a Crime of Economic Sabotage. Rice hoarding and profiteering shall be a crime of economic sabotage to be penalized with life imprisonment and a fine of P100,000.00.

Section 3. Implementing Rules and Regulations. The Department of Justice shall promulgate the rules and regulations for the effective enforcement of the provisions of this law.

Section 4. Separability Clause. – Should any provision of this Act or any part thereof be declared invalid, the other provisions, so far as they are separable from the invalid ones, shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 5. Repealing Clause. - All laws, orders, issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 6. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,