

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5277



Introduced by **REP. BERNADETTE "DETTE" G. ESCUDERO**

AN ACT
INSTITUTING A RICE INCENTIVIZATION, SELF-SUFFICIENCY, AND
ENTERPRISE (RISE) PROGRAM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XII, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution mandates a national economy that promotes equitable distribution of opportunities, income, and wealth, sustained production growth, and expanding productivity to uplift the quality of life for all, especially the underprivileged.

However, our pursuit of agriculture-driven growth and genuine food security is being severely undermined by a confluence of systemic challenges which includes the unrelenting impacts of climate change, pestilence, and geopolitical volatility. These factors have not only crippled our agricultural systems but have driven up the cost of producing essential commodities like rice, resulting in elevated consumer prices and worsening hunger.

The Agriculture Sector remains a critical pillar of our national economy and a key priority of the current Administration but despite this recognition, we are still confronted with the alarming unpredictability in the supply of essential crops, most notably rice. It is therefore incumbent upon this august body to act expeditiously to address this systemic problem, not merely to stabilize prices, but to restore the nation's status as an agricultural powerhouse. By maximizing our abundant natural resources and empowering our farmers, we must safeguard food security, inspire the next generation to embrace agriculture, and ensure that the wealth generated by the land benefits every Filipino through strong government support.

The swift passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


HON. BERNADETTE "DETTE" G. ESCUDERO
Representative
1st District, Sorsogon

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

1 **SECTION. 1. Short Title.** This Act shall be known as the "Cheaper Rice Act."

2 **SEC. 2. Rice Incentivization, Self-Sufficiency, and Enterprise (RISE)**
3 **Program.** The Department of Agriculture (DA) shall implement a price stabilization
4 program for rice with the primary objective to secure the prices for rice and to protect
5 the farmer from price declines and shocks.

6 **SEC. 3. Guaranteed Minimum Price for Palay.** The Department of
7 Agriculture (DA), in coordination with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)
8 and other concerned government agencies, shall formulate and implement the RISE
9 Program under the following framework:

- 10 a. Develop a pricing structure that ensures minimum guaranteed prices for
11 palay;
12 b. Design a payout mechanism for farmers, including estimates based on
13 varying scenarios of price decline;
14 c. Establish a regular monitoring system to mitigate the impact of market
15 fluctuations on palay and rice prices; and
16 d. Constitute a Price Monitoring and Review Team tasked to track rice
17 prices and recommend appropriate policy measures and interventions as
18 necessary.

19 **SEC. 4. Creation of the Price Stabilization Fund.** The DA, in consultation
20 with the appropriate government agencies, shall formulate the operational guidelines
21 governing the administration and utilization of this Fund.

22 **SEC. 5. Price Stabilization Fund Management Committee.** The Fund
23 shall be managed by the Price Stabilization Fund Management Committee (PSFMC)

1 under the Chairmanship of Rice Czar that shall be appointed by the President with the
2 following members:

- 3 a. Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), as Co-
4 Chairperson;
- 5 b. Secretary of the Department of Finance (DOF)
- 6 c. The CEO of the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP);
- 7 d. Administrator of the National Food Authority (NFA)
- 8 e. Executive Director of Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice)
- 9 f. Representative from group of Subsistence farmers of Rice.

10 **SEC. 6. Objectives of the Fund.** The objectives of the fund are as follows:

- 11 a. To guarantee profits for rice farmers despite price volatility;
- 12 b. To safeguard the welfare of the consumers by supplying such
13 commodities at reasonable prices through calibrated release of stock;
- 14 c. To encourage farm gate purchases directly from farmers or farmers'
15 associations by the government;
- 16 d. To encourage the entry of new farmers into the market by reducing
17 barriers associated with price risks;
- 18 e. To help increase a strategic buffer stock for the country that would
19 discourage hoarding and unscrupulous speculation.

20 **SEC. 7. Qualified Beneficiaries.** To be eligible for the premium subsidies,
21 beneficiaries must meet the following criteria:

- 22 a. A bona fide Filipino citizen who is a member of the agri-basic sector;
- 23 b. Must be a rice farmer, farm laborer/ worker or Agri-youth based on the
24 Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA) Definitions of
25 Members of the Agriculture and Fisheries Sector; and
- 26 c. Qualified farmers registered under the RSBSA shall be automatically
27 included as eligible beneficiaries of the RISE Program.

28 **SEC. 8. Program Report.** The DA shall annually submit to the agricultural
29 committee of both Houses of Congress a report assessing the RISE Program. Each
30 report required shall include, for the one-year period ending in March of the year in
31 which the report is submitted:

- 32 a. The number of rice farmers that participated in the program;
- 33 b. Information regarding the demographic characteristics of the farmer-
34 beneficiaries;
- 35 c. Description of the steps taken by the Department to help the farmer-
36 beneficiaries;
- 37 d. Overall production performance by the farmer-beneficiaries;
- 38 e. Assessment of its impact in our National Food Security Plan;
- 39 f. Analyzation of risk exposures of the program.

40
41 **SEC. 9. Appropriations.** The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of
42 this Act may be sourced out from the following:

- 43 a. Subsidy from the General Appropriations Act (GAA);
- 44 b. Official development assistance to the Philippine Government;
- 45 c. Tariffs imposed on Rice.

1 **SEC. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** The DA, in coordination
2 with relevant government agencies, shall issue rules, regulations, and guidelines
3 necessary to carry out the intent and purposes of this Act within six (6) months from
4 date of effectivity.

5 **SEC. 11. *Mandatory Review on the Implementation of this Act.*** The
6 Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) shall submit to the Congress a
7 report on the implementation of this Program at the end of the second year from the
8 date of effectivity of this Act and every two (2) years thereafter.

9 **SEC. 12. *Separability Clause.*** Should any provision of this Act be found
10 unconstitutional by a court of law, such provision shall be severed from the remainder
11 of this Act, and such action shall not affect the enforceability of the remaining
12 provisions of this Act.

13 **SEC. 13. *Repealing Clause.*** All laws, decrees, letters of instruction,
14 resolutions, orders, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this
15 Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

16 **SEC 14. *Effectivity.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its
17 publication in the Official Gazette.

Approved,