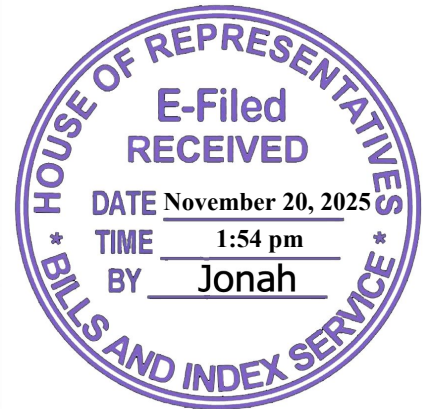


**Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City**

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session**

House Bill No. 6248



**Introduced by
REPRESENTATIVE MIKAELA ANGELA B. SUANSING**

**AN ACT
AUTHORIZING THE UTILIZATION OF THE APPROPRIATIONS INTENDED FOR
THE RICE SUBSIDY OF THE BENEFICIARIES OF THE PANTAWID PAMILYANG
PILIPINO PROGRAM (4PS) UNDER THE GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR
THE PURCHASE OF RICE FROM LOCAL FARMERS**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 11203, otherwise known as the Philippine Rice Tariffication Law, which was enacted in 2019, aims to ensure food security and to stabilize food prices in the country, whilst complying with the principles and rules of the World Trade Organization (WTO). While the new policy reduced consumer and producer rice prices, rice growers have been negatively impacted.¹

Based on data from the Philippine Statistics Authority, the average farmgate price of palay declined from P19.28 (prior the promulgation of R.A. No. 11203) to P17.16.² Farmers and farmer groups have continuously pleaded the government for support, especially given the current rising cost of production and fuel prices. While support programs, in the form of loan assistance and distribution of farm equipment and implements are in place, there is still a great clamor for the government to extend more assistance.

This bill seeks to authorize the Department of Social Welfare and Development, in coordination with the Department of Agriculture and the National Food Authority, to use the rice subsidy allocation provided under the General Appropriations Act in order to purchase palay directly from local farmers and distribute rice instead of cash to the qualified beneficiaries. At present, beneficiaries of the rice subsidy program receive P600.00 monthly on a per household basis.

¹ Balie, Jean; Minot, Nicholas; Valera, Harold Glenn A. Distributional impacts of the rice tariffication policy in the Philippines. Retrieved from <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0313592620304525>

² Based on a 3-year average pre- and post-enactment of RA No. 11203 (2016-2018 and 2019-2022). Data retrieved from <https://psa.gov.ph/content/palay-and-corn-quarterly-bulletin?page=1>

This measure likewise provides for the DSWD, the DA and the NFA, with the support of the Department of Finance and the Department of Economy, Planning, and Development (DEPDev), to craft the procedures and guidelines needed from purchasing palay from local farmers to the distribution of rice to the beneficiaries.

This bill aims to help ease the burden of our local farmers who have been negatively impacted by the influx of imported rice, the rising cost of production, and high fuel prices.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



MIKAELA ANGELA B. SUANSING

1st District of Nueva Ecija

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AN ACT

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

SECTION 1. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) is hereby authorized to utilize the appropriations intended for the rice subsidy of the beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) under the annual General Appropriations Act for the purchase of palay from local farmers.

SEC. 2. Instead of a cash subsidy, the DSWD is hereby mandated to distribute rice to the following qualified beneficiaries of 4Ps: (i) those registered in the Pantawid Pamilya Information System; (ii) victims of natural and man-made disasters rendered homeless and with no means of livelihood; (iii) indigenous peoples in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas; (iv) homeless street families; and (v) transitioning households whose level of well-being have improved but still at high risk of subsequently falling back into survival level as they precariously live with little or no buffer against economic shocks.

SEC. 3. The 4Ps beneficiaries shall be given rice equivalent to the cash subsidy in the amount of Six Hundred Pesos (P600.00) per month on a per household basis. Only 4Ps beneficiaries who comply with the conditions provided in Section 11 of Republic Act No. 11310, otherwise known as the “Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) Act”, are entitled to the rice subsidy.

SEC. 4. Within sixty (60) days from the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the DSWD, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the National Food Authority (NFA), shall establish the procedures and guidelines for the purchase of palay from local farmers, and the distribution of rice by the DSWD-designated outlets to 4Ps beneficiaries. The Secretary of the Department of Finance (DOF) and the Secretary of the Department of Economy, Planning,

and Development (DEPDev) shall likewise provide support in the crafting of the procedures and guidelines.

SEC. 5. The DSWD Secretary shall submit a year-end report to both Houses of Congress on the implementation of this Act.

SEC. 6. All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 7. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,