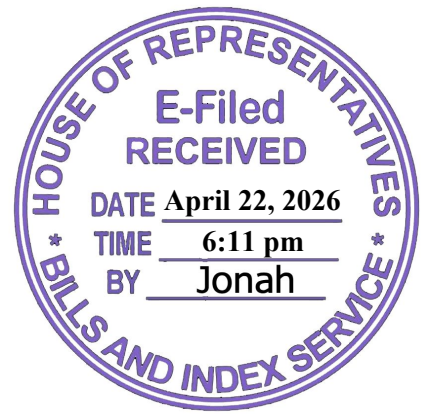


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 8948



Introduced by **Representative ERIC G. YAP**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to mandate the National Food Authority (NFA) to establish, operate, and maintain rice drying facilities nationwide to support Filipino rice farmers, reduce post-harvest losses, and strengthen the country's rice supply chain. Ensuring accessible and adequate drying infrastructure will enable the farmers to preserve the quality of their harvest and directly sell their produce to the government at fair and competitive prices.

Rice farmers across the Philippines continue to face significant post-harvest challenges, particularly in drying palay during peak harvest seasons and adverse weather conditions. Without access to reliable drying facilities, farmers often incur losses due to spoilage, reduced grain quality, and lower market value. These constraints force many farmers to sell their produce immediately at lower prices to private traders who possess drying capabilities, thereby limiting farmers' income and bargaining power.

This proposed measure addresses these gaps by directing the NFA to procure, construct, install, and manage sufficient rice drying facilities that are strategically located and easily accessible to farming communities. It also allows farmers to use these facilities at no cost, provided that the dried palay is intended for direct sale to the NFA. This system strengthens the NFA's capacity to procure high-quality rice while empowering farmers to secure better returns for their harvest.

Furthermore, this measure promotes inclusive agricultural development, enhances food security, and supports the livelihood of Filipino rice farmers by improving post-harvest systems and reinforcing government support mechanisms.

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


HON. ERIC G. YAP

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **8948**

Introduced by **Representative ERIC G. YAP**

AN ACT
MANDATING THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH RICE
DRYING FACILITIES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*NFA Rice Drying Facilities Act*”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby the declared policy of the State to recognize the indispensable role of the agricultural sector in national development and to ensure its sustainability and competitiveness. Towards this end, the State shall promote an enabling environment for rice producers by providing access to appropriate equipment, post-harvest facilities, and necessary infrastructure to enhance their capacity to efficiently sell and market their produce, thereby improving their productivity and income.

SEC. 3. *Drying Facilities.* – The National Food Authority (NFA) shall procure, build, install, operate, manage, and/or maintain rice drying facilities sufficient in quantity and geographically accessible to local farmers to enable it to buy rice directly from local farmers. These drying facilities shall be used by the NFA solely to dry rice to be bought directly from local farmers.

The NFA shall allow local farmers to use these drying facilities at no cost for rice to be directly sold to the NFA.

SEC. 4. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the immediate implementation of this Act shall be primarily charged against the current year’s available appropriations of the DA. The State may also utilize additional funding sourced from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), and the Malampaya Fund: *Provided*, That such allocations are made in accordance with existing laws and special budgetary rules governing said funds.

Thereafter, funding for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act, following the submission of a comprehensive budget proposal by the DA to the Department of Budget and Management.

SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DA shall, through the NFA, issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act, including the procedures for use of drying facilities by local farmers.

SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.* – Should any part of this Act be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions hereof that are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, and issuances, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 8. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper or general circulation.

Approved,