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SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 145

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN and
Senator JUAN MIGUEL "MIGZ" F. ZUBIRI

RESOLUTION

**EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE TO URGENTLY REQUEST THE
EXECUTIVE TO REINSTATE THE MOST FAVORED NATION TARIFF RATE
ON IMPORTED RICE FROM 15 PERCENT BACK TO 35 PERCENT TO
STABILIZE THE DOMESTIC MARKET, MITIGATE RICE INDUSTRY LOSSES,
AND RESTORE GOVERNMENT REVENUE**

1 **WHEREAS**, Article XII, Section 1 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution mandates
2 the State to promote industrialization and full employment based on sound agricultural
3 development and agrarian reform, recognizing agriculture as the foundation of the
4 nation's food security and economic stability;

5 **WHEREAS**, Article XIII, Section 5 of the Constitution further provides that the
6 State shall recognize the right of farmers, farmworkers, and fisherfolk to a just share
7 in the fruits of production, and to receive preferential attention and support from the
8 government in the promotion of their welfare;

9 **WHEREAS**, Executive Order (EO) No. 62 signed by President Ferdinand R.
10 Marcos, Jr. on June 20, 2024, lowered the Most-Favoured Nation (MFN) tariff rates on
11 imported rice to 15 percent from 35 percent to augment supply, stabilize prices, and
12 mitigate inflationary pressures on key commodities, specifically rice;

13 **WHEREAS**, according to EO No. 62, the comprehensive and/or specific MFN
14 tariff rates shall be subject to periodic review every four (4) months from the effectivity
15 of the EO;

16 **WHEREAS**, rice imports as of July 2025 have reached 2.67 million metric tons
17 (MMT), with full-year 2025 imports projected to exceed 4.4 to 4.5 million metric tons
18 (MMT), which indicates a continuing high volume of imports despite domestic harvest
19 season;

20 **WHEREAS**, the primary impact has been on local producers, as the average
21 farmgate price of dry palay (unmilled rice) plummeted by 33.5 percent year-on-year
22 from P24.68/kg in July 2024 to P16.40/kg in July 2025, with reports of prices falling
23 as low as P8-P12/kg in some key regions, well below the estimated production cost of
24 P13.51/kg;

25 **WHEREAS**, the Bureau of Customs (BOC) estimated that the reduction from
26 35 percent to 15 percent resulted in an approximate revenue loss of P27.23B since its
27 implementation, money which could have been allocated to the Rice Competitiveness
28 Enhancement Fund (RCEF);

29 **WHEREAS**, agriculture and forestry sector saw the largest decline in
30 employment with a loss of approximately 1.23 million jobs between April and July
31 2025;

32 **WHEREAS**, the farmer groups have urged the reinstatement of the 35 percent
33 tariff rate since E.O. No. 62 has failed to achieve its objectives of price reduction and
34 had instead destabilized the livelihood of over 3.4 million Filipino farmers;

35 **WHEREAS**, reinstating the 35 percent tariff rate on imported rice is a
36 necessary policy measure to support the livelihood of over 3.4 million Filipino farmers,
37 restore government revenue losses, and reinforce the institutional mechanisms
38 needed to stabilize domestic rice prices;

39 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved, that it is the
40 sense of the Senate to urgently request the Executive to reinstate the MFN tariff on
41 rice from 15 percent back to 35 percent in order to:

- 42 a) Strengthen the viability of domestic rice production by narrowing the gap
43 between farmgate prices and production costs;
44 b) Restore crucial government revenue, estimated at least ₱47.65 billion annually
45 with a tariff rate of 35 percent, for reinvestment in farmer productivity
46 programs under the RCEF;
47 c) Address the contraction of agricultural employment by supporting the local
48 sector; and
49 d) Rebalance the distribution of tariff policy benefits to ensure equitable gains for
50 consumers, producers, and government.

51 *Adopted,*


FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN


JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI