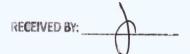
TWENTIETH CONGRESS OF THE	)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES	)
First Regular Session	)



25 OCT -1 A11:50

SENATE

P.S. Res. No. <u>145</u>



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

51 Adopted,

FRANCIS N PANGILINAN

JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI