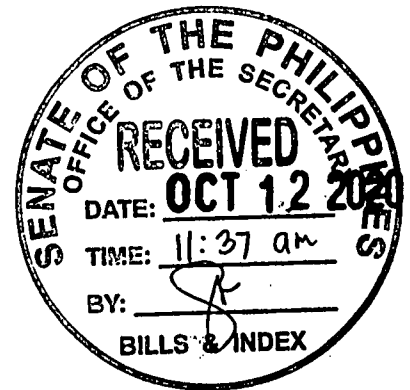


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )



SENATE

Senate Joint Resolution No. 12

**JOINT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE EXCESS COLLECTION OF  
THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS FOR THE YEAR 2020 UNDER THE RICE  
TARIFFICATION LAW AS CASH ASSISTANCE FOR THE RICE FARMERS TO BE  
INCLUDED IN THE GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT (GAA) OF 2021**

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**Introduced BY Senator Cynthia A. Villar**

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**WHEREAS**, Republic Act (RA) No. 11203 or "*An Act Liberalizing the Importation, Exportation and Trading of Rice, Lifting for the Purpose the Quantitative Import Restriction on Rice, and For Other Purposes,*" mandated an earmarking of P10 billion yearly for the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) aimed at modernizing the rice sector;

**WHEREAS**, the law took effect on March 15, 2019;

**WHEREAS**, the law provided that if the annual tariff revenues from rice importation exceed Ten billion pesos (P10,000,000,000.00) in any given year within the six (6) year period following the effectivity of this Act, the excess tariff revenues shall be earmarked by Congress and included in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) of the following year:

*"(a) Rice Farmer Financial Assistance – A portion of the excess rice tariff revenues shall be released to the DA and shall be used for providing direct financial assistance to rice farmers who are farming two (2) hectares and below regardless of whether they continue farming rice or not as compensation for the projected reduction or loss of farm income arising from the tariffication of the quantitative import restrictions on rice;*

*"(b) Titling of Agricultural Rice Lands – A portion of the excess rice tariff revenues shall be released to the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Land Registration Authority (LRA), and shall be used for the subdivision and titling of agricultural rice lands or parts thereof awarded to farmer-beneficiaries under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) and other similar programs of the government:*

*"(c) Expanded Crop Insurance Program on Rice – A portion of the excess tariff revenues shall be released to the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC) and shall be used for the provision of crop insurance to qualified rice farmer-beneficiaries under « its existing agricultural insurance programs; and*

*"(d) Crop Diversification Program – A portion of the excess tariff revenues shall be released to the DA and shall be used for productivity-enhancement programs for rice farmers seeking to diversify production towards other crops.*

*That, the Congressional Oversight Committee on Agricultural and Fisheries Modernization (COCAFAM) shall conduct a periodic review of the use of the Rice Fund.*

**WHEREAS**, the Bureau of Customs (BOC) said that they have collected P10.728 billion in revenues from January to July 17, 2020 despite lower volume of rice importation compared to the same period last year. The year-to-date collection exceeded by 8 percent the P9.9-billion taken a year ago even as rice import volume slid 24.6 percent year-on-year to 1.65 million metric tons (MT) which is 24.6 percent lower in volume covering the same period last year.

**WHEREAS**, RA 11203 imposed the following levy on imported rice: 35 percent, if from Asean; 40 percent, if within the minimum access volume (MAV) of 350,000 MT and from countries outside Asean and 180 percent, if above the MAV and coming from a non-Asean country.

**WHEREAS**, in 2019, rice tariffication raised P12.3 billion in additional revenues, as the private sector imported 2.03 million MT of the Filipino staple food.

**WHEREAS**, in order to help the local rice farmers during the transitioning stage from the quantitative regime to liberalization and also in consideration of the pandemic, the excess collection of BOC as of cut-off date of December 30, 2020 be given to the Department of Agriculture for **Rice Farmer Financial Assistance** directly given to rice farmers who are farming two (2) hectares and below based on the list in the Registry System for Basic Sector or RSBSA to compensate for the reduction or loss of farm income arising from their adjustment and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** by the Senate of the Philippines and the House of Representatives in Congress voting separately, to authorize the use of the EXCESS COLLECTION OF THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS FOR THE YEAR 2020 UNDER THE RICE TARIFFICATION LAW as cash

assistance for rice farmers as defined herein, and included as a provision in the General Appropriations Act of 2021.

*Adopted.*

  
**CYNTHIA A. VILLAR**  
**Senator**