

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session* )



**SENATE**

**S. No. 23**

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**Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.**

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**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING DIRECT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO FILIPINO RICE FARMERS,**  
**ESTABLISHING FOR THE PURPOSE THE PANTAWID MAGSASAKANG**  
**PILIPINO PROGRAM, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER**  
**PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Philippines is primarily an agricultural country. According to the 2020 Selected Statistics on Agriculture published by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), the country's Gross Value Added (GVA) in Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing (AFF), which accounted for 9.2% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), registered a 1.2% growth in 2019. However, the production of palay decreased by 1.3% and the price received by farmers for producing palay during the said year declined by 19.3%. The agriculture sector employs 9.72 million persons out of the total 44.69 million persons in the country's labor force, contributing 22.9% to the national employment. In nominal terms, the daily wage rate of agricultural workers in 2019 averaged P331.10.

Republic Act No. 11598 or the "Cash Assistance for Filipino Farmers Act" mandates the Department of Agriculture (DA) to provide cash transfers to rice farmers tilling two (2) hectares or less until 2024. Pursuant to this law, DA distributes unconditional cash assistance amounting to P5,000 to eligible rice farmers from the Rice Farmers Financial Assistance (RFFA) program as compensation for their projected

income loss due to the drop of palay price. DA started distributing cash assistance in November 2021 which were sourced from excess tariffs collected from 2019 to 2020.

This "*Pantawid Magsasakang Pilipino Act*" complements the existing programs and projects of the government to assist the rice farmers in the country. It proposes to provide conditional cash transfer to poor farming households who will be selected by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in consultation with the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR). These households are required to comply with the conditions set forth under the proposed law to continuously receive the conditional cash transfer that will be sourced from the annual tariff revenue from rice importation in excess of Ten billion pesos.

The bill also mandates the DSWD to facilitate cash-for-work to rice farmers as a short-term intervention to provide temporary employment to members of qualified rice farming households.

This measure was filed by Senator Ralph G. Recto in the 18<sup>th</sup> Congress.

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

  
**RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.**

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

1           Section 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "*Pantawid Magsasakang*  
2 *Pilipino Act*".

3           Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to promote a just  
4 and dynamic social order through policies that provide adequate social services,  
5 promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life  
6 for all.

7           Towards this end, and in line with the constitutional mandate to Congress to  
8 give highest priority to the enactment of measures that protect and enhance the right  
9 of all the people to human dignity, reduce social, economic, and political inequalities,  
10 and remove cultural inequities by equitably diffusing wealth and political power for the  
11 common good, the State shall formulate and implement programs and projects guided  
12 by a national strategy to reduce poverty in the countryside and ensure the sufficiency  
13 and accessibility of food products for all.

14           Sec. 3. *Pantawid Magsasakang Pilipino Program.* - The Pantawid Magsasakang  
15 Pilipino Program, hereinafter referred to as the Program, is hereby established as a  
16 national strategy for rural poverty reduction and program for ensuring food security

1 and sufficiency that provides conditional cash transfer to poor rice farming households  
2 to mitigate the decline of rice farming incomes that may have been caused by the  
3 enforcement of the liberalization of importation, exportation and trade of rice.

4 The provision of conditional cash transfer under the Program shall be  
5 complementary and supplementary to other similar undertakings of the government  
6 and shall not be a replacement for any existing programs for rice and rice farmers  
7 already implemented by any government agency.

8 *Sec. 4. Selection of Qualified Household Beneficiaries.* – On a nationwide basis,  
9 the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) shall, in consultation with  
10 the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR),  
11 select qualified rice farming household-beneficiaries of the Program using a  
12 standardized targeting system. The DSWD shall conduct regular revalidation of  
13 beneficiary targeting at least once every three (3) years.

14 *Sec. 5. Eligible Beneficiaries.* – To be eligible to receive cash grants under the  
15 Program, rice farming households or farmers must meet the following criteria:

16 (a) Classified as poor or near-poor based on a standardized targeting system  
17 and the poverty threshold issued by the Philippine Statistics Authority at  
18 the time of selection; and,

19 (b) Willing to comply with the condition specified in Section 8 of this Act.

20 *Sec. 6. Conditional Cash Transfer to Rice Farming Household-Beneficiaries.* –  
21 The Advisory Council created under Republic Act No. 11310, otherwise known as the  
22 “Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4PS) Act”, shall determine the amount of cash  
23 grants to be extended to rice farming household-beneficiaries based on the following  
24 factors:

25 (a) The amount of the annual tariff revenues from rice importation in excess  
26 of Ten billion pesos (P10,000,000,000.00), based on the collection  
27 recorded in the second fiscal year preceding the current fiscal year;

28 (b) The number of eligible rice farming household-beneficiaries as identified  
29 by the standardized targeting system as provided in Section 7 of this  
30 Act;

31 (c) The administrative and financial cost of providing cash grants to qualified  
32 rice farming household-beneficiaries; and,



1 (d) Other factors that affect the level of available funding or the cost of  
2 implementation of this Act.

3 Sec. 7. *Coverage in the Rice Insurance Program.* – All qualified rice farming  
4 household-beneficiaries of the Program as identified by the standardized targeting  
5 system shall automatically be covered by the Rice Insurance Program of the Philippine  
6 Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC): *Provided,* That the insurance premium for rice  
7 insurance shall be fully subsidized by the National Government: *Provided, further,* That  
8 the amount of premium payment for rice insurance for qualified rice farming  
9 household-beneficiaries shall not be deducted from the appropriations provided under  
10 Section 17 of this Act: *Provided, finally,* That the provision of subsidized rice insurance  
11 to qualified farming household-beneficiaries shall be complementary and  
12 supplementary to the conditional cash transfer program as provided in this Act.

13 Sec. 8. *Conditions for Entitlement.* – All qualified rice farming household-  
14 beneficiaries shall comply with the following requirements for continued program  
15 eligibility:

- 16 (a) The qualified rice farming household-beneficiaries must continue to  
17 engage in palay production;
- 18 (b) The responsible person/s from qualified farming household-beneficiaries  
19 who actually engage/s in rice production must register with the DA under  
20 the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture;
- 21 (c) The qualified rice farming household-beneficiaries must propagate and  
22 use inbred palay seeds to be developed, bred, registered, certified and  
23 distributed by the Philippine Rice Research Institute as provided under  
24 Republic Act No. 11203;
- 25 (d) The qualified rice farming household-beneficiaries must apply for  
26 subsidized insurance coverage as provided in Section 7 of this Act no  
27 later than thirty (30) days from the date of planting; and,
- 28 (e) At least one (1) responsible person from qualified rice farming  
29 household-beneficiaries must attend at least one (1) training program to  
30 be conducted by the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and  
31 Mechanization, Agricultural Training Institute, or Technical Education  
32 and Skills Development Authority in their respective municipality.

1           The DSWD may suspend any or all of the conditions for entitlement during  
2 calamities, armed conflict, state of war or lawless violence, and other similar fortuitous  
3 events.

4           *Sec. 9. Noncompliance with the Conditions for Entitlement.* – The responsible  
5 person of a reported qualified household-beneficiary who fails to comply with the  
6 conditions set forth in Section 8 of this Act shall be notified in writing. Further payment  
7 of cash grants shall be suspended after four (4) months of noncompliance and the  
8 erring household-beneficiary shall be subject to case management process of the  
9 DSWD.

10           The qualified rice farming household-beneficiary has one (1) year, reckoned  
11 from the date of receipt of the written notification, to satisfy the conditions  
12 enumerated under Section 8 of this Act, after which the erring household-beneficiary  
13 shall be removed from the Program.

14           *Sec. 10. Mode of Cash Transfer.* – The DSWD shall provide beneficiaries with  
15 direct and secured access to cash grants through any number of Authorized  
16 Government Depository Banks (AGDBs). For localities not adequately served by an  
17 AGDB, the DSWD may contract the services of rural banks, thrift banks, cooperative  
18 banks and other duly-accredited financial institutions engaged in money remittance  
19 services.

20           *Sec. 11. Cash-for-Work for Rice Farmers Program.* – To provide additional  
21 income for rice farming household-beneficiaries, the DSWD may, in coordination with  
22 government agencies concerned, facilitate short-term intervention to provide  
23 temporary employment to members of qualified rice farming households. Projects  
24 that may be incorporated under the Cash-for-Work Program shall include, but not be  
25 limited to:

- 26           (a) irrigation programs and projects of the DA and the National Irrigation  
27           Administration;
- 28           (b) public works programs and projects of the Department of Public Works  
29           and Highways;
- 30           (c) water supply and sanitation projects of the Department of Interior and  
31           Local Government and local water districts;

1 (d) disaster preparedness, mitigation, relief, rehabilitation, and risk  
2 reduction projects of the Office of the Civil Defense, National Disaster  
3 Risk Reduction and Management Council, and other similar agencies of  
4 government; and,

5 (e) other similar programs and projects of national government agencies,  
6 government-owned or –controlled corporations, and local government  
7 units.

8 The DSWD shall determine the payment rate of cash-for-work employment:  
9 *Provided*, That such payment shall be in no case lower than seventy percent (70%)  
10 of the prevailing daily wage rate set by the National Wages and Productivity  
11 Commission.

12 The DSWD shall utilize the mode of cash transfer as provided in Section 10 of  
13 this Act to transfer payment for services rendered by members of qualified rice farming  
14 households under the Cash-for-Work for Rice Farmers Program.

15 Sec. 12. *Lead Agency.* – The DSWD shall serve as the central planning,  
16 coordinating, implementing and monitoring body of the Program. In the  
17 implementation of this Act, the DSWD shall perform the following functions:

18 (a) Selection and application of appropriate, effective, and cost-efficient  
19 methods in identification and selection of qualified rice farming  
20 household-beneficiaries in coordination with DA and DAR;

21 (b) Identification and selection of target rice farming household-  
22 beneficiaries based on a uniform, objective and transparent selection  
23 process;

24 (c) Coordination with various national and local government agencies,  
25 including non-government and private sector organizations, to ensure  
26 full implementation of the provisions of this Act;

27 (d) Establishment of participatory system and methodologies to monitor and  
28 evaluate the compliance of household-beneficiaries and the  
29 implementation of the Program;

30 (e) Provision of recommendation measures, rules and regulations to the  
31 Advisory Council in order to improve the delivery of commitments made  
32 in this Act;



- 1 (f) Determination of program coverage based on a standardized targeting  
2 system;
- 3 (g) Provision of seminar-workshop and training programs to educate  
4 qualified rice farming household-beneficiaries about the conditions and  
5 other actions pertinent to this Act;
- 6 (h) Synchronization and harmonization of the implementation of the  
7 Program with other similar or related programs of the government;
- 8 (i) Submission of an annual report to Congress on matters pertinent to the  
9 operations and financial status of the Program; and,
- 10 (j) Performance of other functions as may be necessary or incidental to the  
11 proper implementation of the provisions of this Act.

12 **Sec. 13. *Reporting.*** – The DSWD shall publish, on an annual basis, a full report  
13 on the implementation of the Program during the previous fiscal year. The report  
14 shall include, but not limited to, financial disclosures, the number of rice farming  
15 household-beneficiaries included in the Program based on geographic, socioeconomic  
16 and cultural circumstances, and recommendations to improve the implementation of  
17 the Program. This report shall be submitted, either in printed form or by way of  
18 electronic document, to the Congress prior to the submission of the President’s annual  
19 budget. The Secretary of Social Welfare and Development and the Agency’s web  
20 administrator or the web administrator’s equivalent shall be responsible for ensuring  
21 that the said report is posted on the DSWD website.

22 **Sec. 14. *Convergence of Programs and Services.*** – Within the framework of a  
23 national poverty alleviation strategy and a comprehensive food security program, the  
24 various agencies of government implementing multi-stakeholder programs and  
25 services for rice farmers shall guarantee that these programs and services complement  
26 and converge seamlessly with the aim of ensuring that the targeted rice farming  
27 household-beneficiaries are alleviated from poverty. Such convergence shall focus on  
28 the enhancement of operational efficiency, ensuring the realization of program  
29 outcomes, and strengthening of inter-agency partnerships. The government shall  
30 monitor the performance of these agencies to ensure the sustainability of their  
31 respective programs.



1           Sec. 15. *Monitoring and Evaluation of the Program.* – The DSWD shall monitor  
2 and evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of the Program and report its  
3 status at least once every three (3) years in order to ensure the realization of the  
4 objectives declared in Section 2 of this Act.

5           The Independent Monitoring Committee created under Republic Act No. 11310,  
6 otherwise known as the “Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4PS) Act”, shall be  
7 used to complement the monitoring activities of the DSWD in the implementation of  
8 the Program. The Independent Monitoring Committee shall submit a report of its  
9 monitoring activities relative to the implementation of the Program to the Advisory  
10 Council.

11           Sec. 16. *Congressional Oversight.* – The Congressional Oversight Committee  
12 on Agricultural and Fisheries Modernization (COCAFAM) shall conduct a periodic review  
13 of the Program, considering, among others, the report of the monitoring and  
14 evaluation activities of the DSWD and the Independent Monitoring Committee as  
15 provided in Section 15 of this Act.

16           Sec. 17. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the implementation of  
17 the provisions of this Act shall be sourced from the annual tariff revenues from rice  
18 importation in excess of Ten billion pesos (P10,000,000,000.00).

19           Sec. 18. *Prohibited Acts and Corresponding Penalties.* – Any person, whether  
20 acting in conspiracy with public officials or not, who by act or omission, inserts or  
21 allows the insertion of data or false information, or diverts or allows the diversion of  
22 information that ought to be contained in the registry, or transfers or aids in the  
23 transfer of cash grant to persons other than the qualified rice farming household-  
24 beneficiaries, shall be penalized with a fine of not less than Thirty thousand pesos  
25 (P30,000.00) nor more than One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) or  
26 imprisonment of not less than three (3) months nor more than three (3) years, or  
27 both, at the discretion of the court: *Provided,* That if the offense is committed by a  
28 corporation, trust, firm, partnership, association or any other entity, the penalty shall  
29 be imposed upon the guilty officer or officers of such corporation, trust, firm,  
30 partnership, association or entity: *Provided, further,* That in addition to the penalties  
31 that may be imposed by the court, the offender punished under this Section shall be  
32 subject to perpetual disqualification to hold public office: *Provided, finally,* That if the

1 offender punished under this Section is a public official or government employee, the  
2 accumulated leave credits and retirement benefits, if any, shall be forfeited in favor of  
3 the State.

4       Sec. 19. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within thirty (30) days from  
5 effectivity of this Act, the DSWD, DA, Department of Finance and Department of  
6 Budget and Management shall, in coordination with other government agencies  
7 concerned and after consultation with directly affected stakeholders, promulgate the  
8 rules and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

9       Sec. 20. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or  
10 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision or part not otherwise  
11 affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

12       Sec. 21. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,  
13 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary  
14 to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or  
15 amended accordingly.

16       Sec. 22. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
17 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

18       *Approved,*