


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



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RECEIVED BY: 

SENATE
P. S. Res. No. 968

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED ANOMALOUS SALE OF RICE STOCK TO FAVORED PRIVATE TRADERS BY THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, by virtue of Presidential Decree No. 4 series of 1972, as amended, the National Food Authority (NFA) was established in order to strengthen the national strategy for the integrated growth and development of the food industry to insure adequate and continuous supply at reasonable prices;

WHEREAS, NFA is mandated to maintain sufficient rice buffer stock to be sourced solely from local farmers by Republic Act No. 11203 entitled An Act Liberalizing the Importation, Exportation, and Trading of Rice, Lifting for the purpose the Quantitative Import Restriction on Rice, and Other Purposes;

WHEREAS, there was allegation that NFA Administrator Bioco authorize the sale of 150,000 bags of 'deteriorating or aging' stock rice without the approval of the NFA Council;¹

WHEREAS, NFA Assistant Administrator for Operations Lemuel Pagayunan claimed that Administrator Bioco acted with "manifest partiality, evident bad faith

¹ <https://tribune.net.ph/2024/03/08/congressional-probe-reveals-improper-sale-of-over-150000-bags-of-rice-buffer-stock>

and/or gross inexcusable negligence” when he authorized the sale of alleged aging stocks of milled rice to select rice traders at a low price;²

WHEREAS, Mr. Jayson Cainglet, Executive Director of Samahang Industriya ng Agrikultura, claimed that the NFA incurred losses of at least P112 million when it sold 150,000 bags of rice at P25 per kilo without undergoing a bidding process. Allegedly, said rice was bought by NFA from local farmers at P23 per kilo with NFA spending between P13 and P14 per kilo for the milling of palay;³

WHEREAS, 139 NFA officials and employees were placed under preventive suspension by the Office of the Ombudsman due to alleged anomalous sale of the NFA’s stock rice;⁴

WHEREAS, these allegations, if true, is a serious breach of public trust of every Filipino struggling every day to put food on their table;

WHEREAS, there is a need to identify and address policy gaps to ensure a transparent disposal of stock rice to protect the best interests and welfare of both farmers and consumers;

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the alleged anomalous sale of rice stock to favored private traders by the National Food Authority.

Adopted,



JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO

² <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1220297>

³ <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/03/08/2338978/nfa-lost-p112-million-after-rice-sale-traders>

⁴ <https://www.da.gov.ph/ombudsman-suspends-139-nfa-officials-amid-rice-sale-probe-da-chief-takes-over-as-nfa-administrator/>