




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

'17 FEB 21 P3:42

SENATE
P. S. Resolution No. 298

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO INQUIRE AND REVIEW, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE 4-PS CASH FOR RICE SUBSIDY PROGRAM OF DSWD

WHEREAS, President Rodrigo Duterte in his first State of the Nation Address (SONA) stated that the government will give rice to the 4.4 million poor families in addition to the conditional cash transfers that they are receiving under the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) that has spanned two administrations before him.

WHEREAS, each family is supposed to get 20-kg. Rice bags monthly from the National Food Administration (NFA) which is to source the rice locally instead of the outright cash grant.

WHEREAS, of late, the Department of Social Welfare and Rural Development (DSWD) was reported to have agreed with the economic managers and the Senate that the 4Ps beneficiaries will be receiving cash instead of rice.

WHEREAS, the reasons that have been mentioned for this cash conversion include: the terrible system of distributing heavy packs of rice to families, which will incur additional administrative cost for the government. (1)

WHEREAS, the insertion of "special provision in the General Appropriations Act which will provide that the rice subsidy shall be given in the form of cash. (2)

WHEREAS, the 'Cash Option' totally missed on two points: 1). Transport is not a problem since rice farms are spread all over the country; and 2). the rice subsidy is also important because there is need to help local rice farmers directly sell to 4Ps beneficiaries sans the middlemen.

WHEREAS, the CCT Program allocations in 2016 reached Php62.7 billion, this year (2017) it will reach Php78.6 billion, on top of this is for rice subsidy estimated at Php24 billion. (3)

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture proposed in October 2016 that the farmer groups will supply the rice requirements of the 4Ps "at government support price, processed and sold at the "Bigasan ng Masa" outlet located in every local government unit.

WHEREAS, Secretary Emmanuel Piñol said that the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) "will provide financing to both the Local Government Unit (LGU) and the farmers' cooperatives so they could provide hybrid or certified seeds, fertilizers and inputs to the rice farmers in their localities". (4)

NOW THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the proper Senate Committee, to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation on the effectiveness of the rice voucher option instead of directly giving additional cash to the 4Ps beneficiaries to support the agriculture sector is earnestly sought, they being the poorest sector in our country.

Adopted,



SENATOR CYNTHIA A. VILLAR

Sources:

1. (<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/817579/dswd-agrees-with-drilon-cash-instead-of-rice-for-4ps-beficiaries#ixzz4ZDAorrEC>)
2. (<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/817579/dswd-agrees-with-drilon-cash-instead-of-rice-for-4ps-beneficiaris#ixzz4ZDBaAnwR>)
3. (<http://newinfo.inquirer.net/802706/rice-to-be-part-of-4ps-under-digong#ixzz4ZDDmak7>)
4. (<http://www.rappler.com/nation/148172-ph-farmers-supply-rice-4ps-beneficiaries>).