

SENATE

'19 SEP 30 P2:59

P.S. Res. No. 150

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Introduced by Senator Juan Miguel "Migz" F. Zubiri

RESOLUTION

**URGING THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH TO MANDATE THE CONCERNED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TO PURCHASE RICE DIRECTLY FROM FILIPINO FARMERS FOR THEIR AID AND RELIEF PROGRAMS IN TIMES OF CALAMITIES**

**WHEREAS**, latest government statistics for the average palay prices plunged to P16.28 per kilogram (kg) from P23.10 per kg for the same period last year which is 29.52% drop for the same period last year and the lowest palay price in seven (7) years;

**WHEREAS**, in a hearing at the House of Representatives on 2 September 2019, farmers' groups claimed that farmgate prices of palay can go as low as P7 per kilo, much lower than the production cost at P12 per kilo;

**WHEREAS**, the farmers' groups also claimed that there are too many cheap rice imports in the market, this claim jibes with the observation of the Executive Director of the University of Asia and the Pacific Center for Food and Agribusiness, Rolando T. Dy when he said that "the market is oversupplied by imported inventory";

**WHEREAS**, regular milled rice is sold at P35.09 per kilo on average, while well milled rice is sold at P39.10, where Metro Manila enjoys the cheapest prices at P28 per kilo for a regular milled rice and well milled at P33.60 per kilo while Sulu has the most expensive rice prices at P44 per kilo for a regular milled rice and P49 for a well milled rice;

**WHEREAS**, with the above prices of palay, the Filipino farmers could not survive even with subsidies or support funds from the Rice Tariffication Law, if this trend continues especially now that the harvest season is in the offing;

**WHEREAS**, to mitigate their situation, concerned government agencies and local government units must be mandated to purchase rice directly from rice farmers, cooperatives or associations for their aid and relief operations in times of calamities;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved, to mandate the concerned government agencies and local government units to purchase rice directly from Filipino farmers for their aid and relief programs in times of calamities.

*Adopted,*

  
Juan Miguel "Migz" F. Zubiri