



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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

20 FEB 20 P 4 :01

RECEIVED BY: _____

SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 332

Introduced by **Senator Cynthia A. Villar**

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RICE COMPETITIVENESS ENHANCEMENT FUND (RCEF) CREATED THROUGH THE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11203 OR THE RICE TARIFFICATION LAW WITH THE END VIEW OF DETERMINING THE COMPETENCE AND EFFICIENCY OF THE LEAD IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES AS WELL AS IN DETERMINING WHETHER THE FUND IS UTILIZED FOR THE INTENDED PUSPOSES SET BY THE LAW.

1 **WHEREAS**, Republic Act No. 11203 otherwise known as the "Rice Tariffication
2 Law" was enacted and approved by the President of the Philippines on February 8,
3 2019 to ensure food security and to make the country's agriculture sector viable,
4 efficient, and globally competitive.

5 **WHEREAS**, the Rice Tariffication Law created the Rice Competitiveness
6 Enhancement Fund (RCEF) in order to improve the rice farmers' competitiveness and
7 income amidst the liberalization of the Philippine rice trade policy that lifted the
8 quantitative restrictions on rice imports and replaced it with tariffs, among others.

9 **WHEREAS**, RCEF has a Php 10 billion annual appropriation for the next six
10 years which is to allocated and disbursed as follows: (i) Rice farm machinery and
11 equipment (50%) – mechanization program; (ii) Rice seed development, propagation,
12 and promotion (30%) – the seed program; (iii) expanded rice credit assistance (10%) –
13 the credit program; and (iv) Rice extension services (10%) – the extension services
14 program.

1 **WHEREAS**, the lead implementing agency of the mechanization program is the
2 Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PhilMech); the lead
3 implementing agency for the rice seed program is the Philippine Research Institute
4 (PhilRice); the credit program is to be managed equally by the Landbank of the
5 Philippines (LBP) and the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP); and the extension
6 services program is to be implemented by the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) with
7 the PhilMech, PhilRice, and Technical Education and Skills Development (TESDA) as the
8 partner agencies.

9 **WHEREAS**, as of date, notice of cash allotment for the respective components
10 of the RCEF program has already been received by all the concerned implementing
11 agencies. This includes the PhilMech (Php5B), PhilRice (Php3B), TESDA (Php700M), and
12 ATI (Php100M). The DBP and LBP each received Php500 million for the credit
13 component through the fund released to the Agricultural Credit Policy Council.

14 **WHEREAS**, we are on the onset of the harvest season this year. Thus, there is a
15 need to closely monitor the implementation of the RCEF in order to determine whether
16 the targets and objectives of the law are met. Similarly, there is a need to check on the
17 utilization of the fund under RCEF to determine whether it is legitimately used for its
18 intended purpose.

19 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**,
20 urging the appropriate Senate committee to conduct inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the
21 implementation of the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) with the end
22 view of determining the competence and efficiency of the lead implementing agencies
23 in the implementation as well as in determining whether the fund was utilized for the
24 intended purposes set by the law.

Adopted,


CYNTHIA A. VILLAR
Senator