

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



2024 MAY 15 P P 11 22

SENATE
P.S. RES. No. 1024

RECEIVED

Introduced by Senator Robinhood Padilla

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION AND MASS MEDIA TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE SURGING COSTS OF RICE IN THE MARKET THEREBY REINFORCING THE PUBLIC'S AWARENESS OF THE ACTIONS BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE FOOD SECURITY

1 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the State to put premium on the importance of
2 communication and information in the process of nation-building;

3 WHEREAS, the populace has the right to be informed of the government's plans
4 to ensure food security as this encompasses the promotion of public health, reduction
5 of poverty, and in fostering economic development and social stability;

6 WHEREAS, rice or most locally known as *kanin*, *palay*, or *bigas*, is a prominent
7 staple food in households in the Philippines and its neighboring countries in Asia;

8 WHEREAS, according to the data of the International Rice Research Institute
9 (IRRI), almost 30% of the global rice harvest is produced in Asia wherein an estimated
10 80 million hectares is used for rice production;

11 WHEREAS, the Philippine Statistics Authority reported in 2021 that the total rice
12 production in the Philippines was recorded at 19.96 million metric tons with the value
13 of Php 403.89 billion;

14 WHEREAS, despite this, rice is unfortunately still ranked second in the most
15 imported agricultural product in the Philippines in 2022, which also placed the country
16 as the second largest rice importer globally;

17 WHEREAS, to address the rising retail price of food supply, including rice,
18 President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos, Jr., upon the joint recommendation of the

1 Department of Agriculture (DA) and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), signed
2 Executive Order (EO) No. 39 in September 2023 which imposed a mandated ceiling
3 on rice – P41 (\$0.72) per kilogram for regular milled and P45 (\$0.75) per kilogram for
4 well-milled rice;

5 WHEREAS, one month after the issuance of EO No. 39, the President officially
6 ordered the lifting of the mandated price ceiling in the country through EO No. 42
7 dated 04 October 2023, citing the increasing supply of rice stocks and decreasing rice
8 prices in the market;

9 WHEREAS, in March of this year, the DA reported a 36% increase in the retail
10 price of rice compared to the same period in 2023;

11 WHEREAS, case in point is the P45 to P58 per kilogram price regular milled rice
12 in March 2024 compared to its P32 to P40 retail price last year;

13 WHEREAS, the retail price of local well-milled rice increased from last year's
14 P37 to P45 per kilo to the prevailing price of P45 to P58 per kilo in March 2024;

15 WHEREAS, in the case of local premium price, the March 2024 price ranged
16 from P50 to P61 compared to the retail price last year which ranged between P42 and
17 P49 per kilo, while local special price increased from P48 and P60 in 2023 compared
18 to P56 and P65 this year;

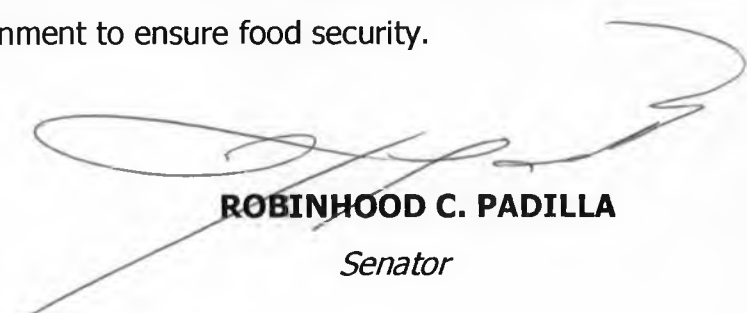
19 WHEREAS, the rising costs of basic commodities like rice not only worsens the
20 condition of our poor countrymen, but also push those who live on fixed incomes or
21 earn low wages closer or below the poverty line;

22 WHEREAS, the public has the right to know of the government's plans and
23 actions on matters that significantly impact our people's well-being and quality of life:

24 *Now, therefore, be it*

25 RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the Senate Committee on
26 Public Information and Mass Media to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the
27 surging costs of rice in the market thereby reinforcing the public's awareness of the
28 actions being undertaken by the government to ensure food security.

Adopted,



ROBINHOOD C. PADILLA
Senator