

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session* )

'22 SEP -8 A10 :48

**SENATE**  
**P.S. Res. No. 192**



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Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

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**RESOLUTION**  
**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE/S TO CONDUCT AN**  
**INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATUS OF THE**  
**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND ITS**  
**PARTNER AGENCIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS OF THE CASH**  
**ASSISTANCE DISTRIBUTION TO FILIPINO FARMERS UNDER R.A. NO.**  
**11598 WITH THE END IN VIEW OF FACILITATING THE SAME AND**  
**TARGETING THE CORRECT BENEFICIARIES**

1 WHEREAS, The State recognizes the plight of small farmers in the country  
2 who are faced with the current state of rising cost of chemical fertilizer and gasoline;

3 WHEREAS, in order to provided them support, relief and care, Republic Act  
4 (R.A.) No. 11598 also known as the Cash Assistance for Filipino Farmers Act was  
5 signed into law on Dec. 10, 2021.

6 WHEREAS, under this law, the government, through the Department of  
7 Agriculture (DA), has provided cash assistance to rice farmers using the tariffs in  
8 excess of the P10 billion collected from rice imports for the Rice Competitiveness  
9 Enhancement Fund (RCEF) as provided for in R.A. No. 11203 or the Rice Tariffication  
10 Law;

11 WHEREAS, RA 11598 authorizes the use the monies from the annual tariff  
12 revenues in excess of PHP10 billion for small farmers until 2024;

13 WHEREAS, the law mandates Bureau of Customs (BOC) to directly remit to  
14 the DA the excess collection from tariff;

15 WHEREAS, the Financial Assistance to Rice Farmers program will be given to  
16 rice farmers registered under the Registry Systems for Basic Sectors in Agriculture  
17 (RSBSA), and tilling two (2) hectares and below of rice land in the form of  
18 unconditional cash assistance of PHP5,000.00;

1 WHEREAS, the BOC and the DA shall, at the end of each year, submit  
2 separate reports to Congress, through the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Food  
3 and Agrarian Reform and the House Committee on Agriculture and Food, on the  
4 remittance of funds and the actual fund disbursement for the year;

5 WHEREAS, between 2019 and 2021, over one million qualified rice farmers  
6 tending small plots have received P5,000 in direct and unconditional cash aid, based  
7 on data from the Department of Agriculture (DA). Funds were distributed under the  
8 Rice Farmers Financial Assistance program, as provided for under the tariffication  
9 law, according to their statement.

10 WHEREAS, Department of Budget and Management (DBM) on 29 July 2022,  
11 released of the Notice of Cash Allocation (NCA) amounting to P8,053,474,140.00 to  
12 the Department of Agriculture (DA) for the provision and distribution of P5,000.00 in  
13 subsidy to 1,563,781 eligible rice farmers on the 3rd and 4th quarter of 2022 for the  
14 implementation of the Rice Farmers' Financial Assistance (RFFA) program, in order  
15 to provide support to rice farmers affected by the Rice Tariffication Law. This  
16 unconditional cash assistance could also provide aid to the rice farmers in securing  
17 farm inputs such as fertilizer and oil for their farm machinery. The NCA likewise  
18 covers the service fee, including the cost of card generation, for the Rice  
19 Competitive Enhancement Fund-RFFA under the Development Bank of the  
20 Philippines (DBP).

21 WHEREAS, also in 24 March 2022, the DBM released a Special Allotment  
22 Release Order (SARO) amounting to P8,948,302,090.00 to the DA under  
23 Unprogrammed Appropriations, General Appropriations Act FY 2022, or Republic Act  
24 11639.

25 WHEREAS, in 6 May 2022, an initial NCA amounting to P894,827,950.00 was  
26 released by the DBM to DA based on the computed budgetary requirements of  
27 173,753 qualified rice farmer-beneficiaries.

28 WHEREAS, the State-owned Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) has  
29 signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the Department of Agriculture  
30 (DA) to facilitate the disbursement of financial assistance to the agriculture sector.

31 WHEREAS, Under the MOA, beneficiaries of various DA programs may receive  
32 their funding assistance via direct credit to their DBP accounts and/or other banks'  
33 accounts/Electronic Money Issuers (EMI) and other Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas-  
34 Supervised Financial Institutions through electronic fund transfer channels such as  
35 PhilPASS, and DBP-accredited payout outlets.

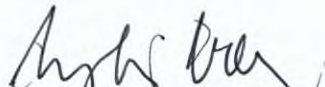
36 WHEREAS, the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) as one of its  
37 partner government financial institutions and Universal Storefront Services  
38 Corporation as the Financial Technology Partner. DBP will also be working closely  
39 with the Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines and various EMIs for the  
40 efficient implementation of this project.

1           WHEREAS, the Land Bank, for its part, has not updated their report for this  
2 program for the continued distribution of cash assistance to small rice farmers which  
3 they did during the CoVid-19 pandemic, paying out a total of P993.15 Million to  
4 198,630 farmer-beneficiaries under the "Bayanihan to Heal as One Act". Are they no  
5 longer involved in the distribution under Republic Act (R.A.) No. 11598?

6           WHEREAS, a letter was submitted by the League of Municipal Agricultural  
7 Officers, Municipal/City Agriculturist of the Philippines, Inc. (LeMMCAP) stating that  
8 in Region 1 it was observed that not all farmers registered in the RSBSA were given  
9 cash assistance due to limited allocation by the DA-Regional Field Office 1.

10           NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the  
11 appropriate committee/s of the Senate of the Philippines to conduct an inquiry, in  
12 aid of legislation, into the implementation of Republic Act (R.A.) No 11598 also  
13 known as Cash Assistance for Filipino Farmers Act the end in view of facilitating the  
14 same.

*Adopted,*

  
**CYNTHIA A. VILLAR**