

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Diliman, Quezon City

20th CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1299



Introduced by: **HON. MARK ANTHONY G. SANTOS**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This proposed bill, known as the "Expanded Rice Tariffication Act of 2025," is designed to enhance the capabilities of the National Food Authority (NFA) to ensure rice stability and national food security. Recognizing that rice is a fundamental staple food in the Philippines, this Act aims to provide the NFA with the necessary and clear functions for effective oversight, regulation, and intervention within the rice industry. Specifically, this bill grants the NFA explicit authority to manage warehouse registration and monitoring, ensuring quality and sufficient supply by requiring the registration of all grain warehouses, maintaining a national database, and conducting inspections. It also defines the NFA's powers for price stabilization and supply regulation during a "Food Security Emergency," outlining how the NFA can utilize and replenish its buffer stock, and, as a last resort, resort to direct importation with the explicit concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture. Furthermore, the bill clarifies the NFA's role in assisting other relevant agencies in enforcing health, safety, and environmental standards within the agricultural sector. Finally, it reaffirms the NFA's mandate to maintain a sufficient rice buffer stock, primarily sourced from local farmers, and details the mechanisms for procurement, including limited purchases from accredited importers and direct importation only when domestic sources are exhausted. By clearly defining and strengthening these powers, this Act intends to enable the NFA to more effectively manage the country's rice supply, stabilize prices, and respond swiftly to any threats to food security, ultimately benefiting Filipino consumers and farmers.

In view of the foregoing, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

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MARK ANTHONY G. SANTOS
Representative, Lone District of Las Piñas

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**AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE POWERS OF THE NATIONAL FOOD
AUTHORITY (NFA) TO ENSURE RICE STABILITY AND FOOD
SECURITY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8178,
AS AMENDED**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress
assembled:*

SECTION 1. Title. — This Act shall be known as the “*Expanded Rice Tariffication Act of 2025.*”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. — It is hereby declared the policy of the State to ensure food security, especially with regard to rice, and to stabilize the supply and price of rice in the country. To achieve this, the National Food Authority (NFA) shall be empowered with the necessary functions to effectively oversee and regulate the rice industry, maintain strategic buffer stocks, and respond to food security emergencies.

SECTION 3. Amendment of Republic Act No. 8178. — A new Section 5 is hereby inserted into Republic Act No. 8178, as amended, to read as follows:

"SEC. 5. NFA Warehouse Registration and Monitoring. – The National Food Authority (NFA) shall have the authority to oversee and ensure compliance with standards in rice quality and supply in the Philippines. To this end, the NFA is hereby empowered to:

- (a) Require the registration of all grain warehouses, including those owned and operated by private entities, and maintain a comprehensive national database of such registered warehouses;
- (b) Conduct regular and unscheduled inspections of registered warehouses to ensure compliance

with established standards for rice quality, storage, and inventory management; and

(c) Collect and analyze data on rice trade activities, including but not limited to, inventory levels, prices, and movements of rice, to inform policy decisions and ensure market transparency."

SECTION 4. Amendment of Republic Act No. 8178. — A new Section 6 is hereby inserted into Republic Act No. 8178, as amended, to read as follows:

"SEC. 6. NFA Powers on Price Stabilization and Supply Regulation. – In cases of a **Food Security Emergency**, the NFA shall have the following powers:

(a) A Food Security Emergency shall be declared by the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA) upon the recommendation of the National Price Coordinating Council (NPCC), or the Local Price Coordinating Council (LPCC) as approved by the NPCC, due to:

- (1) A significant shortage in the national or regional rice supply;
- (2) A sustained and extraordinary increase in the price of rice that adversely affects the general welfare; or
- (3) Any other circumstance that threatens the stability of rice supply and prices.

(b) During a declared Food Security Emergency, the NFA may utilize its existing buffer stock inventory for distribution to affected areas.

(c) The NFA shall prioritize the replenishment of its buffer stock from local sources.

(d) If local sources are insufficient to replenish the buffer stock during a Food Security Emergency, the NFA may, with the explicit written concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture, resort to importation of rice.

(e) The NFA may maintain a buffer fund, not exceeding fifty percent (50%) of the calamity allocation, specifically for the purpose of replacing utilized rice inventory during emergencies.

(f) Distribution or sale of rice under this section shall be limited to:

- (1) Government agencies or entities authorized to handle rice sales;
- (2) Accredited retail outlets and organized women's groups; and
- (3) Kadiwa Stores, Centers, and Outlets."

SECTION 5. Amendment of Republic Act No. 8178. – A new Section 11 is hereby inserted into Republic Act No. 8178, as amended, to read as follows:

"SEC. 11. Assistance in Regulatory Functions. – The National Food Authority (NFA) shall provide prompt response and assistance to the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) and the DA Inspectorate and Enforcement, if requested, in the conduct of regular and unscheduled inspections of agricultural facilities, farms, and related entities for compliance with health, safety, and environmental standards, and in the enforcement of relevant laws and regulations."

SECTION 6. *Amendment of Republic Act No. 8178.* – Section 8 of Republic Act No. 8178, as amended, is hereby renumbered as Section 12 and further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 12. *Maintenance of Rice Buffer Stock.* – The National Food Authority (NFA) shall maintain a sufficient rice buffer stock to be primarily sourced from local farmers and/or farmers organizations/associations/cooperatives. To fulfill this mandate, the NFA is authorized to purchase locally milled rice.

If alternative supply arrangements are insufficient or in extraordinary circumstances, the NFA, with the explicit written concurrence from the Secretary of Agriculture, may purchase up to thirty percent (30%) of rice brought in by accredited importers at the declared cost, insurance, and freight landed price.

As a final recourse, if domestic sources are exhausted, the NFA can directly import rice with the explicit written concurrence and authorization from the Secretary of Agriculture, solely for the purpose of stabilizing the national rice supply and maintaining optimal buffer stock. Priority shall always be given to local production."

SECTION 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Agriculture (DA), in coordination with the National Food Authority (NFA), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), and Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and after consultation with directly affected stakeholders, shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the portions or provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules, and regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.