Mr. Speaker:

The Defeat COVID-19 Ad-Hoc Committee to which was referred House Resolution No. 821 introduced by Rep. Robes, entitled:

"RESOLUTION
EXPRESSING THE COMMITMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO WORK WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO PASS THE PROPOSED SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET OF THE DEPARTMENT TO SUPPORT ITS PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, PARTICULARLY IN THE AREAS OF FOOD SECURITY AND PRICE STABILITY"

has considered the same and recommends the adoption of House Resolution No. 925, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION

in substitution of House Resolution No. 821 with Reps. Robes, Enverga, Villafuerte, Torres-Gomez, Eriguel, Roman, Acosta-Alba, Arroyo, Gatchalian, Malapitan, Datol, Romulo, Go
(M.), Lacson, Pineda, Mendoza, Sarmiento, Caminero, Gonzales (A.), Hernandez, Bagatsing, Paduano, Canama, Cueva, Martinez, Chungalao, Barzag, Kho E.), Romualdez (Y.), Gullas and Fernando as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ
Co-Chairperson
Defeat COVID-19 Ad-Hoc Committee

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY
Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Resolution No. 925
(In substitution of House Resolution No.821)


A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc to the already volatile and challenging area of food security globally, including the Philippines, and with it the urgent need to act with haste to avoid reduced food security, decreased nutrition and higher food prices;

WHEREAS, despite sustained economic growth and development for almost two decades, hunger remains high in the Philippines especially in the lowest economic strata and malnutrition continues to persist in recent years;

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic is expected to worsen the hunger and malnutrition situation with the implementation of the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) and variants thereof, and the concomitant economic fallout;

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture (DA) has proposed the allocation of Php 66 billion in supplemental budget, as stimulus package to the
agriculture sector to ensure food security, food supply availability, and price stability through the following initiatives:

- Php 31 billion for the ALPAS (Ahon Lahat, PagkaingSapat) Kontrasa COVID-19 Program to raise agricultural productivity while ensuring food sufficiency through rice buffer stocking, steady food supply at stable prices through the upscaling of the “Kadiwani Ani at Kita” or the rolling of food stores all over Metro Manila, in partnership with the local chief executives, and the promotion of urban agriculture in Metro Manila and in major cities;

- Php 20 billion for the Food Logistics Plan to make sure that agricultural commodities are accessible and affordable by strengthening the food logistics projects, price monitoring and enforcement system, extension support to provincial local government units (LGUs); and,

- Php 15 billion for the Cash for Work Program (C4W) to assist landless farmers and displaced workers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, as part of its commitment and resolve to help in the efforts to alleviate the condition of every Filipino affected by the enhanced community quarantine and variants thereof, during these difficult times, the House of Representatives pledges to pass the proposed supplemental budget of the Department of Agriculture to address the urgent need of ensuring the country’s food and nutrition security, and for the sector to contribute to the country’s faster economic recovery;

WHEREAS, the DA is expected to submit to the House of Representatives, a report detailing the implementation results of the programs funded by said P66-billion supplemental budget;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to express the commitment of the House of Representatives to enact the proposed P66-billion supplemental budget of the Department of Agriculture to support its programs in addressing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in the areas of food and nutrition, security and price stability.

Adopted,