Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Agriculture and Food and the Committee on Appropriations to which was referred House Bill No. 8964, introduced by Rep. Eric Go Yap, entitled:

“AN ACT
AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO USE THE ANNUAL TARIFF REVENUES IN EXCESS OF P10 BILLION, UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11203 OR "AN ACT LIBERALIZING THE IMPORTATION, EXPORTATION AND TRADING OF RICE, LIFTING FOR THE PURPOSE THE QUANTITATIVE IMPORT RESTRICTION ON RICE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES," FOR DIRECT CASH ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS OWNING ONE (1) HECTARE OR LESS OF RICE LAND UNTIL 2024”

have considered the same and recommend that the attached House Bill No. 9950, entitled:

“AN ACT
AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO PROVIDE FOR DIRECT CASH ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS WHO ARE TILLING TWO (2) HECTARES AND BELOW OF RICE LAND UNTIL 2024, AND USE FOR THE PURPOSE THE ANNUAL TARIFF REVENUES IN EXCESS OF P10 BILLION OF THE RICE COMPETITIVENESS ENHANCEMENT FUND CREATED UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11203, ENTITLED "AN ACT LIBERALIZING THE IMPORTATION, EXPORTATION AND TRADING OF RICE, LIFTING FOR THE PURPOSE THE QUANTITATIVE IMPORT RESTRICTION ON RICE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,"


Respectfully submitted,

REP. ERIC GO YAP
Chairperson
Committee on Appropriations

REP. WILFRIDO MARK M. ENVERGA
Chairperson
Committee on Agriculture and Food

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY
AN ACT
AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO PROVIDE FOR DIRECT CASH ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS WHO ARE TILLING TWO (2) HECTARES AND BELOW OF RICE LAND UNTIL 2024, AND USE FOR THE PURPOSE THE ANNUAL TARIFF REVENUES IN EXCESS OF P10 BILLION OF THE RICE COMPETITIVENESS ENHANCEMENT FUND CREATED UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11203, ENTITLED "AN ACT LIBERALIZING THE IMPORTATION, EXPORTATION AND TRADING OF RICE, LIFTING FOR THE PURPOSE THE QUANTITATIVE IMPORT RESTRICTION ON RICE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

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 "Cash Assistance for Filipino Farmers."

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to address the plight of small farmers in the country. The State recognizes the urgency of intervening for
our farmers in light of the current state of declining *palay* prices and the crippling effects of the Corona Virus Disease -19 or Covid-19 pandemic. Towards this end, the State shall provide monetary assistance to the hardest hit segments of the country’s small farmers in the form of actual giving of cash to farmers.

**SEC. 3. Authorization.** The Department of Agriculture (DA) is hereby authorized to use the monies from the annual tariff revenues in excess of Ten billion pesos (P10B), as provided for in Section 13 of Republic Act 11203, on the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF), to directly provide cash assistance to farmers who are tilling two (2) hectares and below of rice land until 2024. The Bureau of Customs (BOC) is hereby mandated to directly remit to the DA the said excess funds.

The BOC and the DA shall submit separate reports to Congress at the end of each year, through the Committee on Agriculture and Food, on the remittance of funds and the actual fund disbursement for the year, respectively.

**SEC. 4. Funding.** The source of funds for the annual direct cash assistance to farmers shall be the excess of Ten billion pesos (P10B) of the annual tariff revenues from rice importation pursuant to Republic Act No. 11203.

**SEC. 5. Separability Clause.** In case any provision or any part of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the other provisions not so declared and affected shall remain in force and effect.

**SEC. 6. Repealing Clause.** Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, rule or regulation inconsistent or contrary to the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SEC. 7. Effectivity.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*
HOUSE BILL NO. 9950
(In substitution of House Bill No. 8964)

AN ACT
AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO PROVIDE FOR DIRECT CASH ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS WHO ARE TILLING TWO (2) HECTARES AND BELOW OF RICE LAND UNTIL 2024, AND USE FOR THE PURPOSE THE ANNUAL TARIFF REVENUES IN EXCESS OF P10 BILLION OF THE RICE COMPETITIVENESS ENHANCEMENT FUND CREATED UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11203, ENTITLED "AN ACT LIBERALIZING THE IMPORTATION, EXPORTATION AND TRADING OF RICE, LIFTING FOR THE PURPOSE THE QUANTITATIVE IMPORT RESTRICTION ON RICE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES


Committee Referrals: COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Chairpersons: REP. WILFRIDO MARK M. ENVERGA
REP. ERIC GO YAP

OBJECTIVE:
- To provide cash assistance to small farmers who have been the most affected by declining palay prices and the crippling effects of the Corona Virus Disease -19 or Covid-19 pandemic.
KEY PROVISIONS:

- Authorizes the Department of Agriculture (DA) to use revenues in excess of Ten billion pesos (P10B) from the annual tariff collections, as provided in Section 13 of RA No. 11203, for direct cash assistance to farmers who are farming two (2) hectares and below of rice land until 2024.

- Mandates the Bureau of Customs (BOC) to directly remit the excess funds to the DA, in any given year within the implementation of the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) under RA No. 11203, which shall be automatically given as cash assistance to farmer beneficiaries.

- Requires BOC and DA to submit separate annual reports to Congress on the remittance of funds and actual utilization.

RELATED LAW:

RA 11203, “An Act Liberalizing the Importation, Exportation, and Trading of Rice, Lifting for the Purpose the Quantitative Import Restriction on Rice, and for Other Purposes”