

Republic of the Philippines
City of Davao
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____
Series of 2008

A RESOLUTION INVITING THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY [NFA] AND THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE [DOA] IN AID OF LEGISLATION TO SHED LIGHT ON THE CURRENT ISSUES OF RICE SHORTAGES, HOARDING, CARTEL, ILLEGAL REPACKING AND RESELLING OF NFA RICE, AND OTHER RELATED CONCERNS

- WHEREAS**, increased pressures on rice supply and rising food prices are a domestic and international reality that even officials of the World Food Program forecasted that the price of rice will continue to increase probably until 2010;
- WHEREAS**, statistics show that there are about 8.5 billion people worldwide who depend on rice as their staple food and as population grows, rice demand increases which could eventually lead to its shortage in due time;
- WHEREAS**, there are four other factors which pose threat to the supply of rice namely water shortage, global warming, shortage of rice farmers and decreasing of rice lands;
- WHEREAS**, the wholesale price of premium rice rose by 31 percent and that of well-milled rice by 36 percent from 2001 to February 2008, according to data from the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics; this means that the price of rice has spiraled from 26 pesos a kilo to a whopping 33 pesos a kilo – and “talks” are going on that it may continue to increase to 40 pesos per kilo before December this year;
- WHEREAS**, if we are facing a rice shortage, the people should be told frankly that there is a shortage and should also be informed about the measures that the government and the private sector are taking to mitigate the shortage;
- WHEREAS**, rice is the most important food commodity in the Philippines; a shortage would mean hundreds of thousands, if not millions of Filipinos going hungry;
- WHEREAS**, there are three identified three signs of an impending rice crisis—the country’s traditional rice sources such as Thailand and Vietnam could not commit to any volume; the price of rice has jumped sharply in the world market, and the price of other basic commodities are also starting to increase;
- WHEREAS**, on the local scene, we need to be enlightened on how the National Food Authority is meeting this impending crisis – as there have been speculations, unverified “reports,” and grapevine talks that the rice cartel are having a hand in hoarding and manipulating rice supplies, that NFA rice are being repacked and sold at a

higher price; that NFA outlets are selling rice at “unusually high price;” and that there is connivance in high places regarding the distribution of NFA rice supplies;

WHEREAS, we call on the Department of Agriculture and the National Food Authority to crack down on traders believed to be behind alleged rice cartels and NFA distributors who violate the guidelines on selling NFA rice;

WHEREAS, the impending rice crisis is literally a life-and-death problem and the poor sector stands to be affected severely by the food shortage as a result of the diminishing importation of rice.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that this body invite the National Food Authority [NFA] and the Department of Agriculture [DOA] in aid of legislation to shed light on the current issues of rice shortages, hoarding, cartel, illegal repacking and reselling of NFA rice, and other related concerns;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that copies of this resolution be furnished the National Food Authority (NFA) and the Department of Agriculture (DOA) for their information and appropriate response.

ADOPTED, this ____ day of March 2008, Davao City, Philippines.

PILAR C. BRAGA, PhD
Proponent

April 1, 2008 Regular Session (Suspended Rules)