



BAGONG PILIPINAS



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MEMORANDUM ORDER

No. 55
Series of 2024

SUBJECT : AMENDMENT TO MEMORANDUM ORDER (MO) NO. 68, SERIES OF 2023 TITLED, "AMENDED IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES FOR THE FY 2023-2024 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RICE FARMER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (RFFA) UNDER THE RICE COMPETITIVENESS ENHANCEMENT FUND (RCEF)

WHEREAS, Section 13 of Republic Act (RA) No. 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*", stipulates that a Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF), otherwise known as the Rice Fund, shall be created and shall provide for an annual appropriation of Ten Billion Pesos (Php 10,000,000,000.00) for the next six (6) years following the approval of the said Act. The Rice Fund shall be used for rice farm machinery and equipment, rice seed development, propagation, and promotion, expanded rice credit assistance, and rice extension services to rice-producing areas.

WHEREAS, Section 13 of the same Act also states that if the annual tariff revenues from rice importation exceed Ten Billion Pesos (Php 10,000,000,000.00) in any given year within the six (6) year period following the effectivity of the Act, the excess tariff revenues shall be earmarked by Congress and included in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) of the following year as funds for several social protection programs which include the Rice Farmer Financial Assistance Program (RFFA).

WHEREAS, A Joint Memorandum of Department of Agriculture (DA), the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Land Bank of the Philippines, the Development Bank of the Philippines, Technical Education Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and Land Registration Authority (LRA) was issued last 2019 to provide the composition of the RCEF - Program Steering Committee, designating the Secretary of DA as the Chair and in-charge of the implementation of the programs under RA No. 11203.

WHEREAS, a Memorandum Order (MO) No. 68, series of 2023 titled *Amended Implementing Guidelines for the FY 2023-2024 Implementation of the Rice Farmer Financial Assistance Program (RFFA) under the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF)* was issued by the Secretary of DA on November 22, 2023 on the procedures and implementation of RCEF-RFFA.

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Customs (BOC) stated from several certifications issued on June 8, 2023, September 5, 2023, October 24, 2023, and January 24, 2024 that the tariff



revenues from rice importation collected in FY 2023 amounted to Twenty Nine Billion, Nine Hundred Twenty-Seven Million, Three Hundred Eighteen Thousand, Three Hundred Forty-Three Pesos and 70/100 Pesos (Php 29,927,318,343.70). Of which, the revenues in excess of Ten Billion Pesos (Php 10,000,000,000.00) amounting to Nineteen Billion, Nine Hundred Twenty-Seven Million, Three Hundred Eighteen Thousand, Three Hundred Forty-Three Pesos and 70/100 Pesos (Php 19,927,318,343.70) shall be allotted to several social protection programs prescribed in Section 13 of Republic Act (RA) No. 11203, also known as the "Rice Tariffication Law".

WHEREAS, the DA Secretary through a Memorandum dated September 02, 2024 approved the request to increase the amount of cash assistance under the RCEF-RFFA from the FY 2023 tariff revenues from Five Thousand Pesos per rice farmer-beneficiary to Seven Thousand Pesos per rice farmer-beneficiary with a total funding requirement of Seventeen Billion, Six Hundred Twenty-Five Million Nine Hundred Sixty-Three Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Pesos (Php 17,625,963,950.00) to be sourced from the excess in the Ten Billion Pesos (Php 10,000,000,000.00) annual tariff revenue from rice importation.

WHEREAS, the above approval is in accordance with Section 14 of the Special Provision on the Unprogrammed Appropriations in the FY 2024 GAA approved by Congress which provides the use of the excess revenue from the total tariff revenue from rice importation for the RCEF-RFFA.

NOW, THEREFORE, in view of the approval of the Secretary to increase the cash assistance under RCEF-RFFA and the availability of funds, a guideline is hereto issued amending Memorandum Order No. 68, Series of 2023, "Amended Implementing Guidelines for the FY 2023-2024 Implementation of the Rice Farmer Financial Assistance Program (RFFA) under the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF)", as follows:

- **Item IV. DESCRIPTION**

This guideline shall serve as reference for the implementation of the RFFA for FY 2023-2024 on the distribution of unconditional cash assistance to eligible farmer-beneficiaries.

- **Item VII. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS**

D. Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP)

16. Charge only from the RFFA Program Fund Account and not from any other fund accounts of DA-RFOs only the following expenditures:

- a. Cash Assistance worth Seven Thousand Pesos (Php 7,000) per farmer-beneficiary for FY 2023-2024.

- **Item XII. LIQUIDATION**

A. DBP shall only charge the following and nothing more from DA-RFOs:

1. Cash Assistance of Php 7,000 per farmer-beneficiary for FY 2023-2024.

All other provisions in MO No. 68, Series of 2023 shall remain in order.

- Item **XVI. EFFECTIVITY**

This Order shall take effect immediately and the distribution of the cash assistance for the FY2023-2024 shall remain in effect until December 31, 2025.

Done this 3rd day of December 2024.



FRANCISCO P. TIU LAUREL JR.
Secretary

A *or*



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