QUINTA-COMMITTEE HEARING IN CONGRESS

Thursday, 16 January 2025

The House of Representatives called for the fourth of a series of hearings at the new People's Center Building inside the Congressional Complex on 15 January 2025. This Quinta-Committee is also called the "Murang Pagkain Supercommittee" and is composed of the House Committee on Ways & Means (Lead Committee chaired by Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda), Trade & Industry (Rep. Ferjenel G. Biron), Agriculture & Food (Rep. Wilfrido Mark M. Enverga), Social Services (Rep. Rosanna "Ria" V. Vergara) and the Special Comm. on Food Security (Rep. Luisa Lloren Cuaresma). They want to get to the root of the problem as to why the price of imported rice has not gone down inspite of the lowering of rice tariffs for the last six months? They asked PAGASA's Mr. Cua to explain how rice is priced in supermarkets. STC mentioned that there are just too many varieties of rice and too many types of rice retailers to contain prices at one uniform maximum price. PAGASA feels that the Maximum SRP that the DA is planning to set for imported premium rice at P58.00 per kilo for Metro Manila supermarkets is realistic and doable as prices for the rest of the varieties will follow suit from this price ceiling. These prices will continue to move down as rice at these prices becomes available in the market.