

**NOTICE OF INITIATION OF A PRELIMINARY SAFEGUARD MEASURES
INVESTIGATION ON THE IMPORTATION OF RICE FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES
(SG CASE NO. 01-2026)**

Pursuant to Section 6 of Republic Act No. 8800 (Safeguard Measures Act) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), the Department of Agriculture (DA), through the Secretary of Agriculture, hereby gives notice of the initiation of a preliminary safeguard measures investigation to determine whether rice imports are being imported into the Philippines in such increased quantities as to cause or threaten to cause serious injury to the domestic rice industry.

The product under investigation (PUC) is rice, whether unmilled (palay), husked (brown), semi-milled, wholly milled, or broken, classified under ASEAN Harmonized Tariff Nomenclature (AHTN) Heading 1006, including tariff subheadings 1006.10, 1006.20, 1006.30, and 1006.40.

The period of investigation (POI) covers 2020 to August 2025.

An initial review of the petition and supporting evidence, based on publicly available data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), the Bureau of Customs (BOC), and other official sources, shows prima facie evidence of:

1. a substantial and sustained increase in the volume of rice imports, both in absolute terms and relative to domestic production and consumption;
2. serious injury or threat thereof to the domestic rice industry, particularly local rice farmers, as indicated by loss of market share, rising import penetration, increasing commercial inventories, declining self-sufficiency, rising production costs without commensurate productivity gains, volatile and suppressed farmgate prices, contraction in harvested area, and a widening farmgate-to-retail price gap; and
3. a causal link between increased imports and the serious injury or threat thereof, as shown by persistent price undercutting of domestic rice by imported rice and the transmission of import price effects to farmgate prices through the integrated rice value chain.


Upon the recommendation of the Policy Research Service – Trade Remedies Office (PRS-TRO), the Secretary of Agriculture has determined that the petition and evidence submitted are sufficient in form and substance to establish a prima facie case justifying the initiation of a preliminary safeguard measures investigation.

In accordance with Rule 5.2 of the IRR of Republic Act No. 8800, the public interest, including the absence of a political or economic crisis and the availability of adequate domestic supply, shall be considered in the course of the investigation.

All interested parties, including importers, exporters, domestic producers, traders, millers, and other stakeholders, are hereby invited to submit their written comments, evidence, and positions on this investigation within five (5) working days from the date of publication of this Notice, to:

Trade Remedies Office (TRO)
Policy Research Service - Department of Agriculture
3rd Floor, Office of the Secretary Building
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City
Email: prs.tro@da.gov.ph

Issued this 24th day of MARCH 2026, Quezon City, Philippines.


FRANCISCO P. TIU LAUREL JR.
Secretary