



Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL
Old Capitol Building, Bacolod City
Tel. No. 707-8075 (Admin) * 435-7698 (Board Member) * 709-0121 (Legislative Division)
OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN OF THE PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL HELD IN THE CITY OF BACOLOD ON THE 3RD DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026

PRESENT:

Hon. Jose Benito A. Alonso	Vice-Governor/Presiding Officer
Hon. Laurence Marxlen J. de la Cruz	Member - 1 st District
Hon. Araceli T. Somosa	Member - 1 st District
Hon. Sixto Teofilo Roxas V. Guanzon, Jr.	Member - 2 nd District
Hon. Arthur Christopher D. Marañon	Member - 2 nd District
Hon. Atty. Hope Marey B. Depasucat	Member - 3 rd District
Hon. Andrew Gerard L. Montelibano	Member - 3 rd District
Hon. Patricia Paula M. Alonso-Valderrama	Member - 4 th District
Hon. Nicholas M. Yulo	Member - 4 th District
Hon. Hadji P. Trojillo	Member - 5 th District
Hon. Rita Angela S. Gatuslao	Member - 5 th District
Hon. Genaro G. Alvarez, IV	Member - 6 th District
Hon. Jeffrey T. Tubola	Member - 6 th District
Hon. Richard Julius L. Sablan	Member - ABC Rep.
Hon. Mayvelyn L. Madrid	Member - SKF Rep.

ABSENT (O.L.):

Hon. Julius Martin D. Asistio	Member - PCL Rep.
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RESOLUTION NO. 0195
Series of 2026

RESOLUTION HUMBLY ENDORSING TO HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT FERDINAND MARCOS, JR TO CREATE THE SUGAR INDUSTRY PRICE STABILIZATION COMMISSION IN ORDER TO ENSURE VIABILITY OF SUGARCANE PRODUCERS AND MILLERS ALIKE AND TO APPROPRIATELY SATISFY HOUSEHOLD CONSUMERS AND FOOD MANUFACTURERS INCLUDING COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL USERS OF DOMESTIC SUGAR (RAW, BROWN, AND REFINED) IN THE PHILIPPINES

Authored by:
HON. RITA ANGELA GATUSLAO

Co-Authored by:
HON. SIXTO TEOFILO ROXAS V. GUANZON, JR.

Sponsored by:

HON. PATRICIA PAULA ALONSO-VALDERRAMA, HON. GENARO ALVAREZ IV, HON. JULIUS MARTIN ASISTIO, HON. LAURENCE MARXLEN DELA CRUZ, HON. ATTY. HOPE MAREY DEPASUCAT, HON. MAYVELYN L. MADRID, HON. ARTHUR CHRISTOPHER MARAÑON, HON. ANDREW MONTELIBANO, HON. RICHARD JULIUS SABLAN, HON. ARACELI T. SOMOSA, HON. HADJI TROJILLO, HON. JEFFREY T. TUBOLA, HON. NICHOLAS YULO
Members of the 37th Sangguniang Panlalawigan of the Province of Negros Occidental



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WHEREAS, there is a need for a long-term solution to the existing problem that would benefit the sugar industry as a whole, including various sectors such as sugar mills, sugar planters, traders, wholesalers, household and industrial consumers, and those who are directly and indirectly involved in contributing to the survival of the sugar industry.

WHEREAS, the present economic condition of the sugar industry throughout the country is facing another round of crisis amid erratic weather conditions, which have resulted in lower productivity per hectare;

WHEREAS, the increasing costs of labor, fertilizers, pesticides, and other farm inputs, coupled with the high cost of fuel for transportation, the scarcity of labor, and above all, the unstable mill gate price of sugar, have further aggravated the situation;

WHEREAS, the combined effects of the aforementioned factors have significantly reduced the profitability of planting sugarcane and producing sugar in Negros Occidental, as well as in other sugar-producing provinces nationwide;

WHEREAS, it can be reckoned that during its progressive and abundant years, the sugar industry contributed greatly to economic prosperity, with positive effects on the socio-economic condition of the country, particularly in the Province of Negros, which supplies approximately sixty to sixty-five percent (60–65%) of the total sugar production in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, the present dilemma encountered by approximately one hundred forty thousand (140,000) sugarcane farmers, farm workers, and support service providers is considered another grave crisis that must be addressed in order for the sugar industry to survive and remain resilient;

WHEREAS, the recent joint public consultation conducted by the House of Representatives and the Senate on January 23, 2026, at Nature's Garden in Talisay City, Negros Occidental, was well attended by various stakeholders who presented both written and oral recommendations, strongly appealing for the stabilization of the mill gate price of sugar;

WHEREAS, it was emphasized during the consultation that the issue cannot be adequately addressed at present time due to lack of involvement of several government agencies, which must be collectively organized to deliver a comprehensive and effective price stabilization policy that will be for the survival of sugarcane producers and for the general satisfaction and welfare of the household consumers, commercial, and industrial users and for the survival of sugarcane producers and millers alike

WHEREAS, it was noted that the Sugar Regulatory Administration lacks the sufficient power and authority to administer and control the importation of sugar and it was noted that fragmented authority over sugar importation, absent clear inter-agency rules and transparent safeguards, has resulted in uncontrolled or mistimed influxes of imported sugar, contributing to artificial price suppression and market distortion, inconsistent with fair competition principles under Republic Act No. 10667;



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WHEREAS, the efforts of both the House of Representatives and the Senate reflect a genuine intention to listen to the voices of sugar farmers and workers in order to identify the most appropriate, fair, just, and reasonable solutions to prevent the total collapse of the sugar industry;

WHEREAS, there is an imperative need to establish a central policymaking body composed of multidisciplinary agencies to authorize and effect the stabilization of millgate sugar prices in the market through the formulation of unified guidelines and regulatory policies;

WHEREAS, the creation of an umbrella central policymaking body under the Office of the President, which will be composed of several multidisciplinary agencies, will ensure a realistic, reasonable, justifiable, and economically feasible direction toward the long-term survival of the sugar industry, which has sustained the nation for nearly a century;

WHEREAS, the creation of the Sugar Industry Price Stabilization Commission is hereby endorsed to His Excellency President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. for appropriate action, with the proposed membership to include, but not be limited to, the Department of Agriculture, the Sugar Regulatory Administration, the Food and Drug Administration, the Philippine import and export authorities, and other concerned agencies whose mandates directly or indirectly contribute to the formulation of policies to stabilize the millgate price of sugar and maintain the equilibrium of protecting the welfare of household consumer as well as other users of sugar;

WHEREAS, sugar is a strategic agricultural commodity directly affecting national food security, rural employment, industrial production, and consumer welfare, and is therefore imbued with public interest;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 10667, otherwise known as the Philippine Competition Act, declares as national policy the prohibition of anti-competitive agreements, abuse of dominant position, and market manipulation, including price fixing and cartelization;

WHEREAS, price instability in the sugar market has historically been exacerbated by discretionary importation, opaque allocation of import permits, and regulatory capture favoring vested interests at the expense of planters, laborers, millers, manufacturers, and consumers;

WHEREAS, any mechanism for sugar price stabilization and import regulation must be consistent with the Philippines' obligations under the World Trade Organization Agreement on Agriculture and the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement, particularly the principles of transparency, predictability, and non-discrimination;

WHEREAS, for purposes of this Resolution, "price stabilization" shall be understood not as price control, but as the maintenance of mill gate, ex-mill, and wholesale sugar prices within a transparent and pre-announced price band derived from:

- Verified cost of production data;
- Living wage benchmarks for agricultural labor;
- Reasonable returns on capital for millers;
- Consumer affordability indicators; and
- Climate and supply risk factors;



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WHEREAS, the creation of a Sugar Industry Price Stabilization Commission (SIPSC) under the Office of the President is hereby endorsed, PROVIDED THAT its composition and decision-making structure shall ensure that no single agency, sector, or interest group may dominate, control, or unilaterally influence policy outcomes, consistent with Republic Act No. 10667;

WHEREAS, the Commission shall include voting representatives from:

1. Small and medium-scale sugarcane planters;
2. Recognized farmworker or labor federations;
3. Sugar millers;
4. Food and beverage manufacturers;
5. Consumer sector representatives;

with national government agencies serving ex officio and non-dominant, unless otherwise required by law;

WHEREAS, no Commissioner shall represent or be affiliated with entities simultaneously engaged in sugar production, milling, importation, and trading, in order to prevent vertical integration dominance and conflict of interest;

WHEREAS, all Commissioners and key technical officers shall comply with strict conflict-of-interest rules, including:

- No direct or indirect financial interest in sugar importation, trading, or brokerage within five (5) years prior to appointment;
- A two (2) year post-service prohibition from engaging in regulated sugar trade activities; This aligns with Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials (RA 6713).

WHEREAS, any decision involving:

- Sugar importation;
- Adjustment of import volumes;
- Emergency market intervention; or
- Reclassification of sugar for industrial or commercial use shall require a two-thirds (2/3) supermajority vote of the full Commission;

WHEREAS, sugar importation shall be governed by a rules-based trigger mechanism, consistent with WTO AoA safeguards, requiring the concurrence of all the following:

1. A verified domestic supply deficit based on audited production data;
2. Sustained breach of the upper price band threatening consumer welfare;
3. Exhaustion or insufficiency of domestic buffer stocks;

WHEREAS, no sugar importation shall be authorized during the domestic milling season unless justified by an independently verified and publicly disclosed supply shortfall;

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized initial and a long, sweeping flourish.



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WHEREAS, import permits shall not be allocated in a manner that allows a single entity or group of related entities to control a dominant share of authorized imports, in accordance with the Philippine Competition Act;

WHEREAS, the minimum mill gate price formulation shall explicitly incorporate:

- Living wage benchmarks for farm laborers;
- Prevailing input costs including fertilizer, fuel, and transport;
- Climate and yield risk adjustments;

in order to prevent cost-price squeezes that undermine agricultural sustainability, consistent with the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (RA 8435);

WHEREAS, all Commission decisions, voting records, price computations, import authorizations, and justifications shall be published within seven (7) days in a publicly accessible digital registry, consistent with transparency obligations under Republic Act No. 11032;

WHEREAS, the Commission shall be subject to:

- Annual Commission on Audit (COA) review;
- Congressional oversight;
- Periodic independent policy evaluation;

WHEREAS, the copies of this Resolution be furnished to all concerned agencies with the express directive that no sugar importation, price intervention, or market reclassification shall be undertaken outside the transparent, rules-based framework herein endorsed, consistent with national competition law and international trade obligations;

WHEREAS, the proposed mechanism is competition-safe, preventing cartelization and abuse of dominance consistent with Republic Act No. 10667; trade-compliant, relying on objective safeguards rather than quotas in accordance with the WTO AoA and ATIGA; farmer- and labor-protective, through cost-based pricing floors; investor- and manufacturer-friendly, by providing predictable pricing and supply signals; and politically insulated, through supermajority voting, disclosure, and audit requirements;

WHEREAS, in view of the foregoing, the SP Committee on Laws, deemed it best to approve the same;

NOW THEREFORE, on motion of Hon. Rita Angela Gatuslao, duly seconded by Hon. Sixto Teofilo Roxas V. Guanzon, Jr;

THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN RESOLVED, as it hereby resolves, to endorse to his Excellency President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr to create the Sugar Industry Price Stabilization Commission in order to ensure viability of sugarcane producers and millers alike and to appropriately satisfy household consumers and food manufacturers including commercial and industrial users of domestic sugar (raw, brown, and refined) in the Philippines



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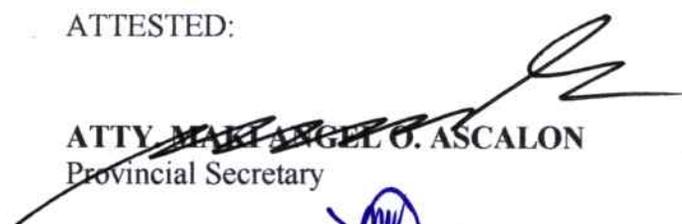
ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon approval.

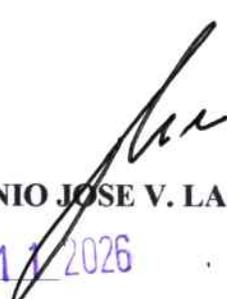
CERTIFIED CORRECT:


HON. JOSE BENITO A. ALONSO
Vice Governor /Presiding Officer

ATTESTED:


ATTY. MARI ANGEL O. ASCALON
Provincial Secretary

APPROVED:


HON. EUGENIO JOSE V. LACSON
Governor
Date: MAR 17 2026