

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

Fifteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3698

Introduced by Representative DEOGRACIAS B. RAMOS, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

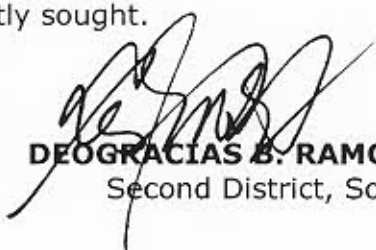
The State has the duty to protect and promote the right to health of the people. It is this mandate that this bill seeks to implement.

With the undeterred and unmitigated proliferation in the market of meat and meat products from dead animals, or animals that never undergo pre and post mortem inspection, as well as those that are illegally imported, there is an urgent need to curtail these malevolent market practices as they pose serious threat to the health of consumers.

Worthy of mention is the fact that in more ways than one, the livestock and poultry industry is being shortchanged since 'hot meat' or 'bocha' is easily sold to unsuspecting consumers for being a lot cheaper than meat that passed government inspection.

The current government efforts to arrest this menace by confiscation of hot meat and meat products and the imposition of administrative fine pursuant to existing laws are not enough to curtail it. It is respectfully submitted that it is only by criminalizing this reprehensible practice can the government send a clear and strong message to the greedy perpetrators that we mean business.

The immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



DEOGRACIAS B. RAMOS, JR.
Second District, Sorsogon

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AN ACT PENALIZING THE SALE, TRANSPORT AND OTHER TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING 'HOT MEAT', AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 2, 4 AND 56 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9296, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE MEAT INSPECTION CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES".

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in the Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Section 2 of Republic Act No. 9296 is hereby amended to include an additional policy of the State, viz:

(h) To stop the widespread trade of meat and meat products from dead or diseased animals, or from animals which have not passed government inspection through the imposition of stiffer penalties.

SECTION 2. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 9296 is hereby amended to include in the definition of terms paragraph 37 defining 'hot meat' as follows, viz:

(37) Hot Meat – refers to carcass or parts of carcass of food animals which was slaughtered from unregistered or unaccredited meat establishment and/or has not undergone the required inspection. It also refers to undocumented, illegally shipped, unregistered carcass and/or parts of carcass from other countries and those that may be classified by the National Meat Inspection Service as such.

SECTION 3. Section 56 of Republic Act No. 9296 is hereby amended to read as follows, viz:

Section 56. Penalties – Any person, firm or corporation who shall transport, sell or otherwise dispose of carcasses, organs or parts thereof for food which have not passed ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection by competent authority, or who shall falsify, forge or alter any accompanying certificate or other document or paper issued by

the National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS) or NMIS deputized government personnel, or who shall forge the NMIS or LGU seal or tag on said carcasses, organs or parts thereof shall upon conviction, suffer a penalty of imprisonment ranging from a period of at least six (6) months and one (1) day but not more than six (6) years and pay a fine of at least Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) but not more than Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P500,000.00) at the discretion of the court. Accomplices and accessories in the crime shall suffer a penalty of imprisonment of at least three (3) months and one (1) day but not more than three (3) years and pay a fine of not less than Thirty Thousand Pesos (P30,000.00) but not more than Three Hundred Thousand Pesos (P300,000.00).

Any person, firm or corporation who shall store, transport, sell or otherwise dispose of meat or meat products which has been brought to the country without authority from the NMIS and the Bureau of Animal Industry shall suffer a penalty of imprisonment ranging from one (1) year and one (1) day to ten (10) years and pay a fine of at least Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P500,000.00) but not more than One Million Pesos (P1,000,000.00), at the discretion of the court. Accomplices and accessories in the crime shall suffer a penalty of imprisonment of at least six (6) months and one (1) day but not more than five (5) years and pay a fine of not less than Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) but not more than Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P500,000.00).

In addition, the hot meat shall be confiscated and vehicles and other modes of conveyances used shall be impounded and their registration and/franchise cancelled. Livestock and poultry farms and other hot meat establishments shall be closed and their business permits cancelled.

All other violations of the provisions of Republic Act No. 9296 shall be penalized with imprisonment ranging from two (2) months to not more than two (2) years and pay a fine of not less than Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) but more than Fifty Thousand Pesos, at the discretion of the Court.

The Secretary of Agriculture, by regulation, shall issue a schedule of administrative fines and other penalties for violations of Republic Act No. 9296.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,