

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
FIRST REGULAR SESSION)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
H. B. No. 3180



Introduced by Honorable Agapito H. Guanlao

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Managing the country's per capita rice consumption is an important strategy in attaining rice self-sufficiency. With the ballooning of the country's population to 95.8 million in 2012, it is very doubtful that the country's current state of food sufficiency can absorb such. The Food Staples Sufficiency Program (FSSP) targets a 120 kg annual per capita consumption as a component strategy that requires the involvement of all sectors of the society and all under the state's machinery.

Wastes however are generated not by consumption alone but in the gamut of processes involved from production of food staples, rice for that matter, until it is consumed by the population.

According to a report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), an estimated 120,000 for every one million metric tons (MT) of *palay* produced by farmers are wasted due to the lack of proper post-harvest facilities. This is equivalent to about 6 percent of post harvest losses or about 1,200,000 metric tons a year. This translates to P19,200,000 at present farm gate price of *palay*.

At the other end, are significant losses resulting from wasteful consumption of rice. This according to the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) translates to losses worth more than P22.5 million a day, or about P8.4 billion a year. The wastage on the table (cooked rice) alone according to the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI) is on an average three (3) tablespoons or 9 grams or 3.3 kilograms a year. Luzon wastes about 16 grams, the Visayas and Mindanao waste 12 grams per capita. This translates to roughly 318,645 tons a year, assuming that 97 million Filipinos waste 16 grams a day. This may also mean an importation of the same volume a year.

Wasteful consumption of rice underscores the need for understanding food wastage in general. Wastage of other foods may not be far behind. Food wastage is also related with consumers' capacity to spend more because the more they have the capacity to purchase food, the higher their propensity for generating wastes.

Food wastes are also generated during its consumption such as in consumption that is based on unhealthy and uninformed eating habits. Unhealthy in the sense that food consumption intake is driven by excessive quantities and not by the body's requirement. It is observed that left-overs or even untouched food end-up as wastes in food establishments. Restaurants, fast food joints, and even canteens and cafeterias in offices and schools have become repositories of huge volumes of left-overs. Some food establishments that offer buffets and serve unlimited food such as rice are also fast becoming waste generators.

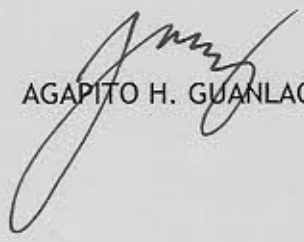
Wastage may also be a result of improper labelling of packaged food. With more consumers becoming more aware of purchasing healthy and natural food, Improperly labelled food and drink packages especially those that do not contain expiry dates, or such labelled in foreign language end-up as wastes. But reports had it that expired packaged food are sold in the market by unscrupulous traders posing detriment to the public's health and safety.

This proposed legislation also addresses the wasteful consumption of food in the context of promoting and enhancing wellness as a matter of attaining food security. It intends to reinvent the food consumption patterns of people and at the same time, enjoin food

establishments to participate by supporting the food security initiatives of the government. Furthermore, it shall help develop health and well-being consciousness among consumers.

It may be superfluous for the moment to delve into exact estimates of the magnitude of the food wastes generated in the country. Suffice it to say that deeper studies must be conducted as bases for identifying and implementing programs and initiatives that must be undertaken and for that matter all food and food staples must be considered.

The processes in the food value chain generate wastes. Effecting therefore a sound management of food and food staples consumption and minimizing wastes will later redound to contributions towards a development goal of delivering accessible and affordable food and food staples for the population and the promotion of a healthy citizenry, thus approval of this measure is earnestly sought.



AGAPITO H. GUANLAO

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HOUSE BILL NO. **3180**

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING MECHANISMS TOWARD SOUND MANAGEMENT OF FOOD AND FOOD
STAPLES CONSUMPTION, ZERO FOOD-WASTE MANAGEMENT PURSUANT TO FOOD
SECURITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE

Section 1. Short Title. - The Food and Food Staples Consumption and Zero Food-Waste Management Act of 2013

Section 2. Declaration of State Policy. - It shall be the policy of the State to promote programs and projects that ensure food security. In so doing, it shall pursue a thrust for the sustainable utilization of our limited agricultural and food resources. In order to initiate efforts to ensure food security, the State shall promote sound consumption and zero food-waste management in the production, handling, distribution and consumption of food and food staples. It shall likewise provide mechanisms that will prevent the wasteful consumption of food and at the same time, encourage the development of better eating and health habits among consumers.

Section 3. Creation of a Zero Food-Waste Management Program. - There is hereby created a Zero Food-Waste Management Program to be implemented by the government. It shall have different components, all of which shall be directed towards institutionalizing measures intended to attain Zero Food-Waste.

Section 4. Promotion of Healthy Food Consumption. - This component of the program addresses the generation of wastes and excesses in the consumption of food and food staples. It focuses on informing and educating consumers on healthy food consumption.

Section 4.1. Food establishments such as, but not limited to restaurants, fast food chains, as well as canteens and cafeterias in schools and offices, whether owned and operated by government or private entities, are hereby required to provide and post visible and readable information, in a language that is understood by the majority of its customers, on the specific caloric contents of the food and drinks sold and served. These information shall be based on the Food Pyramid prepared by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute and the National Nutrition Council.

Section 4.2. Food establishments are also required to adjust the measurements, volume of servings and price of the food served and sold, depending on the preference of their customers. Depending on the standard of measurements as may be prescribed by this Act, all food establishments are required to serve (1) whole, three-fourths (3/4) or one half (1/2) of the standard measurements prescribed.

Section 4.3. The Department of Health, Department of Trade and Industry, and the Department of Interior and Local Government through LGU offices

tasked with the issuance and control of business permits and licenses of food establishments, shall be responsible to update and revise existing guidelines in implementing the provisions of this law.

Section 5. Promotion and Provision of Resources for Complete Mechanization of Agriculture - The program intends to achieve zero waste of agricultural products from production, packing and to distribution using state of the art technology and packaging materials that preserve and food quality. This will include, but not limited to vaccum packed sacks, and the like. Machineries and equipment shall be identified and provided for by the Department of Agriculture (DA) that shall function as lead agency in this initiative. The DA shall provide a list of existing harvest and post-harvest facilities, such as but not limited to solar dryers, threshers, hullers, milling facilities, and the like, it is already distributing through its numerous assistance programs. The DA shall be responsible to draft policies and guidelines concerning the purchase and distribution of these equipment, and shall include such in this law's implementing rules and regulations.

Section 6. Promotion of Food Safety Through Proper Packaging and Labelling. - Guided by the provisions under Chapter IV on Labelling and Fair Packaging of Republic Act 7394 or the Consumers Act of the Philippines, guidelines and policies that will improve the said law shall be formulated with the Department of Trade and Industry taking the lead.

6.1. Required information in food labels and packages:

- 6.1.a. Nutritional facts,
- 6.1. b. Source of the products - location of farms, country of origin, etc.
- 6.1. c. Packaging materials used,
- 6.1. d. Required dates of manufacture and expiry
- 6.1. e. Others to be determined

7. Inter-Agency Implementing Body. - To implement the law, an inter-agency body shall be created and shall be composed by the following government agencies:

Department of Health through the National Nutrition Council (NNC), Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI) and the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD)- as Chairperson of the Body
Department of Agriculture - as Vice-chairperson
Department of Trade and Industry - Member
Department of Education/Health and Nutrition Center - Member
Commission on Higher Education - Member
Department of Interior and Local Government - Member

Section 8. Roles and Responsibilities. - Each of the following agencies that are included in the implementing body shall perform the following roles and responsibilities:

1. Set standards for food consumption vis-à-vis required calorie content depending on age, bodily composition, and the like.
2. Set standards specific food types or groups vis-à-vis calorie content and volume/quantities, to include, but not limited to serving sizes;
3. Develop and implement policies on standards for food consumption vis-à-vis agriculture and food resource availability, including projections based on natural considerations such as calamities, planting, harvesting and production cycles per agricultural and livestock crop/products, etc;
4. Develop guidelines that shall govern food establishments in terms of licensing and permits to sell specific food items;

5. Draft and implement guidelines pertinent to the publication and display of information on required food calorie requirements in food establishments;
6. Develop a pricing system that shall be used in assigning costs of food orders and servings; and,
7. Draft and implement a system of penalties, that include, but not limited to payment of reasonable fines, frequency of violations, and the like; and,
8. Specifically, the Department of Education shall formulate guidelines on the inclusion of food consumption and saving related topics to be included in the curriculum of public and private elementary and high schools.
9. Specifically, the Commission on Higher Education shall draft guidelines to effect the inclusion of subject matters related to food consumption and preparation in the specific curricula of specific degrees/courses such as, but not limited to Agriculture, Hotel and Restaurant Management/Administration, Culinary Arts, Nursing, Allied Medicine, and the like.

Section 9. - Zero-Food Waste Information and Education Campaign Program. - An Information and Education Campaign Program shall be launched wherein all of the agencies composing the Inter-Agency Body shall participate. As provided in Section 12 of this Act, separate fund that shall augment the existing funds of agencies that are part of the Inter-Agency Body will be earmarked that shall enable them to implement information and educations initiatives.

Section 10. - Within two (2) months after the enactment of this law, the Secretary of Health through the National Nutrition Council shall immediately convene the inter-agency body.

Section 10.1. The immediate task of the inter-agency body is to draft the implementing rules and regulations.

Section 10.2. It is likewise expected that an initial information/data sheet on the calorie content of specific food, compared with specific food measurement/serving sizes be drafted and distributed to major food establishments.

Section 11. Oversight. - The implementation of this Act shall be monitored by the Inter-Agency, with coordination with the Committees on Agriculture, Health and Economic Affairs of the Senate and the Committees on Agriculture and Food, Health, Trade and Industry, Education and the Special Committee on Food Security of the House or Representatives.

Section 12. Appropriations. - The amount of TEN MILLION PESOS (P 10,000,000.00) shall be appropriated for this purpose and shall its release shall be spread in two years. An amount of FIVE MILLION PESOS (P 5,000,000.00) shall be released to all members of the Inter-Agency Body to augment their existing budgets and such fund shall be solely used solely for information and education purposes.

Section 13. SOURCES OF FUNDS FOR HARVEST AND POST-HARVEST FACILITIES. - For the first two (2) years of this law's implementation, harvest and post-harvest facilities shall be accessed from the Department of Agriculture's existing programs and projects on farm mechanization.

Section 13.1. On the second year of this law's implementation, the Department of Agriculture shall plan, in coordination with the Inter-Agency Body, and the Municipal and Provincial Agricultural Offices, and submit a list of machineries needed to fully implement the said program on farm machineries, and shall proposed a line item in its department's budget in the

General Appropriations Act, in the amount of ONE BILLION PESOS (P 1,000,000,000.00)

Section 13.2. Upon the approval in the General Appropriations Act, the Inter-Agency Body, with the Department of Agriculture as lead agency, shall monitor the impact of the mechanization program as provided in this law. It shall submit a report to the Commission on Audit, the Department of Finance and Budget and Management detailing its findings on the impact of the said program.

Section 13.3. Any additional appropriations of the said program shall be dependent on the positive outcomes of the program.

Section 14. Separability Clause. - Should any provision of this Act or any part thereof be declared invalid, the other provisions, so far as they are separable, shall remain in force and effect.

Section 15. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (30) days after the publication in the Official Gazette and in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,