

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5931



Introduced by Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

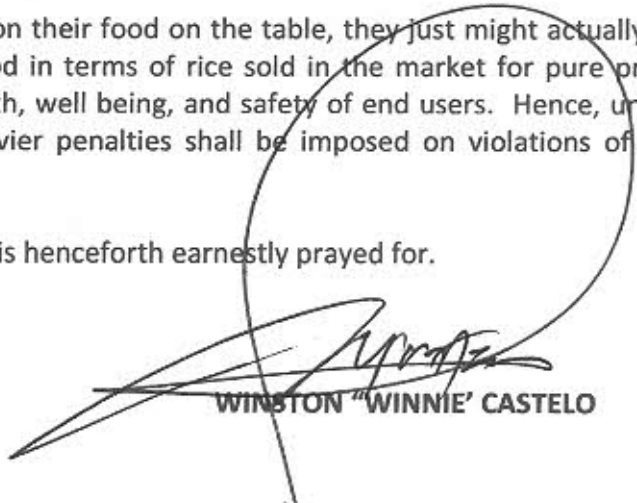
Rice is, undoubtedly, the most important staple for the majority of Filipinos. We are rice eaters and in fact, rice is one of our staple crops as well, aside from corn. Hence, the market for this basic need is remarkably large such that certain scrupulous traders, dealers, or businesses whether they are engaged in retail or wholesale of rice have proven to have involved themselves in the production of fake rice.

As now publicly known, fake rice is reportedly made from potatoes, sweet potatoes, plastic and materials found in pipes and cables and its sale had been reported in countries like China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam. Such fake rice now circulates in Philippine markets starting off with the reported case of Davao City.

Fake rice has given rise to certain other questionable items like fake noodles now found in the markets. The National Food Authority and other concerned agencies have been tasked to launch an aggressive monitoring, inspection, and surveillance of these food items. However, this issue cannot be taken lightly given its possible health hazards when consumed in quantities over time by many of our people who are rice eaters. The same is true with fake noodles that are now reportedly sold as well.

The next time most people feast on their food on the table, they just might actually be consuming poison or otherwise toxic food in terms of rice sold in the market for pure profit motive and in total disregard of the health, well being, and safety of end users. Hence, under the proposed law, higher fines and heavier penalties shall be imposed on violations of the provisions under this Act.

The immediate passage of this bill is henceforth earnestly prayed for.


WINSTON "WINNIE" CASTELO

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AN ACT
AUTHORIZING THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY TO EXERCISE AGGRESSIVE REGULATORY
POWERS AGAINST TRADERS, DEALERS, OR BUSINESSES INVOLVED IN FAKE FOOD PRODUCTS
SUCH AS BUT NOT LIMITED TO FAKE RICE, FAKE NOODLES, AND THE LIKE AND IMPOSING
HIGHER FINES AND HEAVIER PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "Regulatory Control on Rice Sale Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. There shall herein be enforced aggressive regulatory control on the sale, either retail or wholesale, of rice in all public and private markets or stores throughout the country by the National Food Authority.

Toward this end, the National Food Authority shall be authorized to impose higher fines and heavier penalties for traders, dealers, or business involved in the sale of fake food products especially the case of rice to include noodles and the like.

Provided Further That, other concerned agencies may cooperate in the identification of rice suspected of being fake or other similar food and the conduct of appropriate laboratory tests on their possible toxic content or danger to humans when ingested.

SEC. 3. The National Food Authority, having been authorized to exercise aggressive regulatory control shall issue rules, regulations, guidelines, and other issuances for the effective implementation of this Act against violations of the provisions thereof. Provided Further That,

It is hereby allowed to coordinate with other agencies of government to carry out its prescribed authority under this Act.

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval, publication in the Official Gazette, and in at least three (3) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,