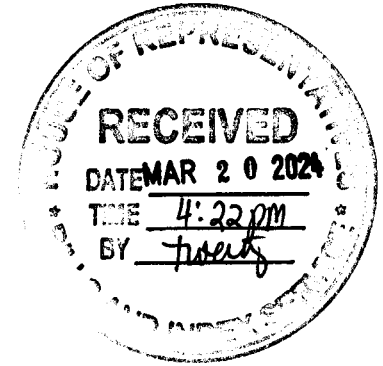


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 10208



**INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES RALPH WENDEL P. TULFO,
JOCELYN P. TULFO AND ERWIN T. TULFO**

**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A SYSTEM OF REDISTRIBUTING AND
RECYCLING FOOD WASTE TO PROMOTE FOOD SECURITY**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Sections 9, 11, and 21, and Article XIII, Section 12 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution essentially obligate the State to guarantee the people's right to adequate food. The Philippines has also adopted the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which include the commitment to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition.¹

Despite these domestic and international obligations, approximately 11% of Filipinos are food insecure in 2022, translating to one out of every ten households suffering from the problem.² Considering that the Philippines generates over 1,717 metric tons of food waste every day, the aforesaid statistic is a cause for alarm.³

In order to alleviate the food waste problem, it is imperative to adopt a whole-of-nation approach that seeks to increase food security by maximizing available resources through establishing and formalizing redistribution and recycling systems, especially in urban areas where food and nutrition insufficiency are prevalent.

This proposed legislative measure then seeks to establish a nationwide system to reduce food waste, which involves the promotion of a National Zero Food Waste Campaign. This Campaign will entail various efforts to spread awareness and information on the problem, and to provide means to address it down to the individual level. Waste reduction strategies for food-related businesses, households, and local units will also be implemented to assist in financing, redistributing edible

¹ "Our Work on the Sustainable Development Goals in Philippines." United Nations, United Nations, philippines.un.org/en/sdgs. Accessed 27 Sept. 2023.

² "WFP Philippines - Food Security Monitoring - October 2022." UN World Food Programme, www.wfp.org/publications/wfp-philippines-food-security-monitoring-october-2022. Accessed 30 Sept. 2023.

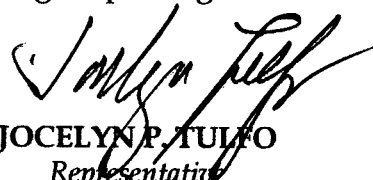
³ "Reducing Food Waste Starts at Home." Manila Bulletin, mb.com.ph/2023/3/18/reducing-food-waste-starts-at-home. Accessed 30 Sept. 2023.

food waste to food banks, and recycling inedible food waste through waste management facilities. Through this bill, a National Zero Food Waste scheme shall likewise provide guidelines and standards to support the redistribution and recycling efforts.

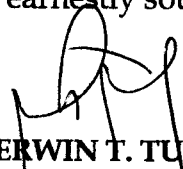
In view of the foregoing, the urgent passing of this bill is earnestly sought.



RALPH WENDEL P. TULFO
Representative
2nd District of Quezon City



JOCELYN P. TULFO
Representative
ACT-CIS Partylist



ERWIN T. TULFO
Representative
ACT-CIS Partylist

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 10208

**INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES RALPH WENDEL P. TULFO,
JOCELYN P. TULFO AND ERWIN T. TULFO**

**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A SYSTEM OF REDISTRIBUTING AND
RECYCLING FOOD WASTE TO PROMOTE FOOD SECURITY**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representative of the Philippines in Congress assembled.

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Zero Food Waste Act".

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - The State recognizes that each person has a right to an adequate standard of living, which includes the guarantee of adequate nourishment brought about by food sufficiency. It is hereby declared a policy of the State to safeguard food security, eradicate instances of hunger, and promote the efficient use of the country's food resources.

Towards this end, the State shall adopt a system to promote, facilitate, and ensure the reduction of food waste through redistribution and recycling. The massive amount of food waste and the considerable number of people experiencing daily hunger constitute a fundamental disparity that this legislative measure seeks to rectify.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* - As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- (a) *Food insecure* refers to persons or groups who have difficulty producing or purchasing food to avoid hunger;
- (b) *Edible food waste* refers to food discarded in the retail and consumption stages, determined to be fit for consumption based on standards set by the National Nutrition Council, hereinafter referred to as the "Council";
- (c) *Food waste reduction* refers to the decrease of food waste generation, redistribution of food waste to the food insecure or the recycling of food as fertilizer or compost;
- (d) *Food-related businesses* refers to public and private businesses involved in the manufacturing and processing of food products (*i.e.*, food manufacturers), private businesses involved the wholesaling and retailing of food products (*i.e.*, supermarkets), and private businesses involved in serving products (*i.e.*, restaurants, cafeterias, and hotels) which produce food waste in kilograms;
- (e) *Food banks* refer to non-profit, charitable or other social mission-driven organizations that distribute food to the food insecure;
- (f) *Waste management and recycling enterprises* refer to organizations that manage inedible food waste by converting these into fertilizers or compost.

SEC. 4. *National Zero Food Waste Campaign.* - The Council, in close coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of Education (DepEd), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Department of Health (DOH), and other concerned agencies and local government units (LGUs), is hereby tasked to undertake a National Zero Food Waste Campaign, hereinafter referred to as the

“Campaign”. The Campaign may include food waste reduction efforts required from food-related businesses by the LGUs. The Campaign shall also promote the food waste reduction hierarchy and recommend means of reducing individual food waste.

The DepEd is hereby mandated to ensure that the basic education curriculum includes materials regarding the current global and national food waste situation, effective ways to reduce food waste, national and local food waste prevention programs, and the salient provisions of this Act.

SEC. 5. *Food-related Business Waste Reduction Strategy.* - Food-related businesses, included but not limited to food manufacturers, supermarkets, restaurants, cafeterias, and hotels, are hereby required to:

- (a) Submit an initial report to the DSWD and DENR that contains data on the amount (in kilograms) of its edible food waste in the past year, organized according to the manner of disposal, including donation, composting or discarding;
- (b) Enter into a contract with food banks to redistribute edible food waste to the food insecure;
- (c) Shoulder the costs of transporting edible food waste from business location to the food bank’s warehouse or distribution center;
- (d) Ensure that the edible food waste is unadulterated and in good condition upon arrival at the food bank’s distribution center;
- (e) Enter into a contract with waste management and recycling enterprises to recycle inedible food waste into fertilizer or compost;

(f) Shoulder the costs of transporting inedible food waste from collection areas to waste management sites; and

(g) Reach and maintain food waste levels at the target set by the DENR.

SEC. 6. *National Zero Food Waste Scheme.* – The DSWD, as the coordinating agency between the food-related businesses and food banks, shall:

(a) Provide guidelines and standards for the collection, storage, and distribution of edible food donated to food banks;

(b) Ensure that food-related businesses have entered into contracts with food banks, and issue acceptance certificates to said businesses;

(c) Promote linkages between food banks and LGUs to create a community-based food distribution system for the food insecure; and

(d) Create a Self-Sufficiency Program that will provide the food insecure with skills training on managing food banks and livelihood programs to avoid the dependence on donations.

SEC. 7. *Household and Local Government Unit Waste Reduction Strategy.* - LGUs are hereby required to:

(a) Submit an initial report that contains data on the amount (in kilograms) of inedible food waste that can be recycled as raw material for fertilizers or compost to the DENR;

(b) Submit an annual report that contains data on the amount (in kilograms) of inedible food waste that can be recycled as raw material for fertilizers or compost to the DENR;

- (c) Initiate waste segregation efforts per household through local campaigns;
- (d) Enter into a contract with waste management and recycling enterprises to recycle inedible food waste from households into fertilizer or compost;
- (e) Shoulder the costs of transporting inedible food waste from collection areas to waste management sites; and
- (f) Reach and maintain inedible food waste levels at the target set by DENR.

SEC. 8. *Tax Incentive.* - Food-related businesses that donate edible food to food banks shall be exempt from donor's tax and the same shall be considered as an allowable deduction from their gross income in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

SEC. 9. *Penal Provisions/Penalties.* - The penalty of *prison correccional* shall be imposed on any individual, private or public, who deliberately makes food waste unfit for consumption. The same penalty is applicable to private or public entities which prevent the redirection of edible food waste to food banks or inedible food waste to waste management and recycling enterprises.

SEC. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Council, in coordination with the DSWD, DENR, DepEd, DTI, DOH, and other relevant government agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the intent and provisions of this Act.

SEC. 11. *Sources of Funding.* - The funds necessary to carry out the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the respective budget of concerned agencies and LGUs for the current year. Thereafter, such sums as may be

necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 12. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, the validity of the other provisions shall not be affected thereby.

SEC. 13. *Repealing Clause.* - All other laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, other issuances, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 14. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,