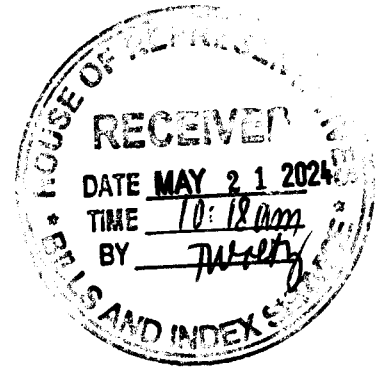


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 10464



Introduced by **Hon. Alan 1 B. Ecleo**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is the policy of the State to ensure the availability of basic necessities and prime commodities at reasonable prices at all times without denying legitimate business a fair return on investment. Considering the significant and catastrophic impact of natural disasters, it has been a long-standing effort on the part of the government to solidify the way our country deals with calamities and emergencies including price monitoring of basic necessities and prime commodities.

As demands increase, prices of construction materials consequently surge during disasters which unnecessarily exacerbates the trauma and stress of the community. Those who survived could not even begin the repairs to their dwellings as they could not find affordable materials for construction. While Republic Act No. 7581 as amended or the Price Act has established a mechanism that protects consumers by providing a list of basic necessities and prime commodities, the changes in time warrants its expansion.

Hence, the inclusion of construction materials in the list of basic necessities and prime commodities is hereby proposed to ensure effective and sufficient protection to the consumers against unfair practices such as undue price increases, hoarding, profiteering, and cartel with respect to the supply, distribution, marketing, and predatory pricing of goods during calamities and emergencies and to further aid in the country's recovery and rebuilding process.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this bill is immediately sought.

ALAN 1 B. ECLEO
Representative, Lone District of Dinagat Islands

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 10464

Introduced by **Hon. ALAN 1 B. ECLEO**

AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10623, BY INCLUDING SELECTED CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS TO BASIC NECESSITIES, NAMELY: GI SHEETS, CONSTRUCTION NAILS, STEEL BARS, HOLLOW BLOCKS, PLYWOOD, AND CEMENT

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

Section 1. Section 1 of Republic Act No. 10623, otherwise known as “An Act Amending Certain Provisions of Republic Act No. 7581, entitled, “An Act Providing Protection to Consumers by Stabilizing the Prices of Basic Necessities and Prime Commodities and by Prescribing Measures Against Undue Price Increases During Emergency Situations and Like Occasions” And For Other Purposes,” is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 3(1). Definition of Terms. — For Purposes of this Act, the term:

“(1) ‘Basic necessities’ are goods vital to the needs of consumers for their sustenance and existence in times of any of the cases provided under Section 6 or 7 of this Act such as, but not limited to, rice, corn, root crops, bread; fresh, dried or canned fish and other marine products; fresh pork, beef and poultry meat; fresh eggs; potable water in bottles and containers; fresh and processed milk; fresh vegetables and fruits; locally manufactured instant noodles; coffee; sugar; cooking oil; salt; laundry soap and detergents; firewood; charcoal; household liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and kerosene; candles; drugs classified as essential by the Department of Health; GI sheets, construction nails, steel bars, hollow blocks, plywood, cement; and such other goods as may be included under Section 4 of this Act;

SEC. 2. Section 3(8) of Republic Act No. 10623 is hereby amended to read as follows:

”Section 3(8). Definition of Terms –

“(8) ‘Prime Commodities’ are goods not considered as basic necessities but are essential to consumers in times of any of the cases provided under

Section 7 of this Act such as, but not limited to, flour; dried, processed or canned pork, beef and poultry meat; dairy products not falling under basic necessities; onions, garlic, vinegar, patis, soy sauce; toilet soap; fertilizer, pesticides and herbicides; poultry, livestock and fishery feeds and veterinary products; paper; school supplies; nipa shingles; sawali; clinker; plyboard; batteries; electrical supplies; light bulbs; steel wire; all drugs not classified as essential drugs by the Department of Health and such other goods as may be included under Section 4 of this Act.”

SEC. 3. *Repealing Clause.* Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SEC. 4. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,