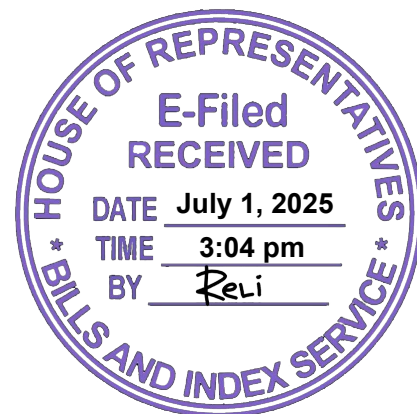


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **916**

Introduced by **Hon. Bernadette S. Barbers**



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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to amend certain provisions 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” by including selected construction materials to Basic Necessities, Namely: GI sheets, construction nails, steel bars, hollow blocks, plywood, and cement.

Considering the onslaught of Super Typhoon Odette that struck Surigao del Norte and Dinagat Islands last December 16, 2021 was a nightmare for the people. Almost 100% lost their houses and even lost some of their families. Consumers struggled for survival as their sources of livelihood were devastated. Inevitably, prices of some construction materials skyrocketed because the demand is high while the supply is low and could not be controlled.

Consequently, high prices of commodities especially construction materials needed for rehabilitation of houses add to consumers’ burden while facing the traumatic experience brought by the calamity. If these selected construction materials will be included to basic necessities, all business establishments with construction supplies that are regularly monitored or not monitored by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Surigao del Norte will be forewarned not to increase such products because this will be automatically frozen during state of calamity, thus protecting all consumers which are affected by the typhoon or any fortuitous events.

Thus, there is a pressing need to amend R.A. 10623, to include selected construction materials to Basic Necessities, namely: GI sheets, construction nails, steel bars, hollow blocks, plywood, and cement, to ensure consumer protection against illegal acts of price manipulation specifically profiteering; ensure that prices are reasonable while promoting fair return of investment; protect the consumers’ right of basic needs for survival in times of calamity; and create a conducive environment for consumers in getting the value for their hard-earned money.

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


HON. BERNADETTE S. BARBERS
2nd District Surigao del Norte

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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:

“Sec. 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.* – All laws, orders, issuances, circulars, rules and regulations or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

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

Approved,