

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **3875**



Introduced by Honorable Ma. Alana Samanta Taliño Santos

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DISASTER FOOD BANK AND STOCKPILE FOR EVERY PROVINCE AND HIGHLY URBANIZED CITY IN THE PHILIPPINES, PROVIDING FOR THEIR MAINTENANCE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In 2024, six consecutive natural disasters have had a staggering impact on 14.3 million people. There have been 174 reported deaths, 148 injuries, and 25 missing persons. Over 1.4 million individuals have been displaced, and 315,777 houses have been damaged, with 36,000 completely destroyed. Affected communities are now facing urgent shortages of safe water, sanitation, food, and healthcare.¹

Although Republic Act No. 10121, or the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010, is already in place, there remain crucial gaps that must be addressed to strengthen disaster preparedness. In the aftermath of a typhoon, recovery often takes several days, with access to food and water consistently emerging as the primary concern. Families typically rely on basic relief food packs for sustenance.

In response to similar challenges, several Southeast Asian countries have adopted public stockholding systems. This approach aligns with the fact that the region is home to both major producers and consumers of rice, which is Asia's staple grain. For example, Indonesia has established a clear state policy on food reserves under its Food Law of 2012. This law mandates a public food reserve system structured across multiple levels, from national government stocks down to reserves at the provincial, regency/city, and village levels.² Malaysia also demonstrates the use of privately held stocks for national food security, through the rice trading

¹ Philippines, Asia Pacific | Typhoons and Floods (2024).

<https://reliefweb.int/report/philippines/philippines-asia-pacific-typhoons-and-floods-operation-update-2-mdrph056>

² Briones, Roehlano M., Public Stockholding in Southeast Asia, Review and Prospects, available at http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/est/meetings/stocks/Briones_public_stockholding_in_southeast_asia.pdf, accessed in January 26, 2015

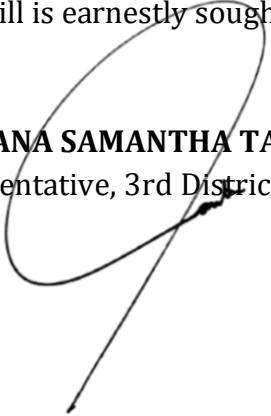
company BERNAS. In this system, BERNAS manages the National Rice Stockpile not only as a food security measure but also as a tool for stabilizing market prices.³

Creating strategic stockpiles has become a practical way to ensure the immediate and dependable availability of basic necessities, at least in the short term. Moreover, given the country's exposure to severe weather events, geological hazards, and the worsening effects of climate change, there is a pressing need to further strengthen disaster preparedness and response strategies.

This bill seeks to institutionalize the prepositioning and efficient mobilization of essential food and non-food supplies in strategically located stockpiles to guarantee immediate relief and humanitarian support to families affected by natural disasters and emergencies. The stockpiles will be stored in secure, disaster-resilient facilities and jointly overseen by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

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

HON. MA. ALANA SAMANTHA TALIÑO SANTOS
Representative, 3rd District of Cotabato



³http://www.bernas.com.my/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=83:national-stockpile&catid=48

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

Section 1. **Short Title.** – This act shall be known as the “*Disaster Food Bank and Stockpile Act*”.

Section 2. **Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to protect the people from the adverse effects of calamities and emergencies by ensuring the continuous, immediate, and adequate supply of essential goods and materials. The State shall promote self-sufficiency and reduce dependence on foreign sources for such supplies, in accordance with Article II, Section 9 of the Constitution, which mandates the promotion of a just and dynamic social order and the provision of adequate social services.

To this end, the State shall ensure the strategic prepositioning of food, water, and other essential goods in all provinces and highly urbanized cities, and shall promote local agriculture and livelihood by prioritizing the procurement of locally produced goods for the Disaster Food Bank and Stockpile established under this Act.

Section 3. **Definition of Terms.** — As used in this Act:

(a) “Disaster Food Bank and Stockpile” or “Stockpile” refers to a central repository and reserve of food, water, medicines, vaccines, antidotes, critical medical supplies, and other essential goods, including but not limited to portable power sources, first aid kits, portable light sources, clothing, tents, and communication devices, intended for disaster response and recovery operations.

(b) “Structure” refers to the calamity-proof warehouse or facility housing the Stockpile.

(c) “Highly Urbanized City” refers to a city classified as such under existing laws.

Section 4. ***Establishment of Disaster Food Bank and Stockpile.*** – There shall be established in every province and highly urbanized city a Disaster Food Bank and Stockpile, which shall serve as the central repository and reserve of essential goods for disaster response and recovery. The establishment of Stockpiles shall prioritize island provinces or regions, coastal provinces, earthquake-prone provinces, provinces with active volcanoes, and other high-risk areas, subject to the availability of funds and logistical capacity.

Existing government warehouses and structures used for storing and prepositioning relief goods may be converted or upgraded to serve as Stockpiles, provided they meet the minimum standards set under this Act. Contiguous provinces and highly urbanized cities may temporarily share a Stockpile in the absence of suitable facilities.

Section 5. ***Management and Supervision.*** – The Stockpile shall be jointly managed and supervised by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), in coordination with the following agencies:

- (a) Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH);
- (b) Department of Trade and Industry (DTI);
- (c) Department of Agriculture (DA);
- (d) Department of Science and Technology (DOST); and
- (e) Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

Section 6. ***Location and Confidentiality.*** — The NDRRMC shall determine the actual locations of the Stockpiles, considering equitable distribution, accessibility, safety, security, and strategic mobilization. The locations shall be kept confidential and disclosed only to authorized personnel, consistent with national security and disaster response protocols.

Section 7. ***Structure and Standards.*** – Each Stockpile shall be housed in a calamity-proof structure designed and constructed by the DPWH, in accordance with the following minimum standards:

- (a) Structural integrity to withstand Category 5 typhoons, high-magnitude earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and storm surges;
- (b) Sufficient capacity to store supplies for the entire population of the province or city for at least three (3) weeks;
- (c) Use of sustainable energy sources, with backup power systems;
- (d) Security measures against unauthorized access, theft, and looting;
- (e) Vermin-proofing, insulation, fire resistance, and fire safety equipment.

Sec. 8. ***Stockpile Contents, Quantity, and Replenishment.*** – The Stockpile shall contain non-perishable food items with a shelf life of at least two (2) years, potable water, medicines, vaccines, critical medical supplies, and other essential goods. The quantity and

volume shall be regularly monitored and maintained, with replenishment and replacement conducted at least annually or as necessary.

A computerized inventory system shall be established for real-time monitoring of expiration dates and shelf life. Unused goods remaining after twelve (12) months shall be distributed to indigent communities through DSWD programs.

The stockpiling and regular replenishment of supplies shall be spearheaded and facilitated through the coordinated efforts of the DSWD, DTI, DA, and DOST, with the following guidelines:

a) The DSWD shall:

1) Update the institutionalized and standard contents of their family food pack (FFP) and devise each FFP to contain all regular necessities such as rice, canned goods, basic medication, water, and ready-to-eat meals, including the locally processed and produced products of the local farmers and micro-producers of the respective provinces/ localities; and

2) Make use of the fund allocation for the procurement of FFPs to purchase the collated products of the local farmers and micro-producers.

b) The DA, through their Provincial Directors, shall organize all farmers and micro-producers in their respective provinces and facilitate the production and purchase of their local produce. They shall ensure that the demand for raw materials and agricultural produce are equitably distributed among all farmers and micro-producers in the locality.

c) The DTI, through their Provincial Directors, shall facilitate the purchase of non-agricultural products, such as clothing, shelter materials, essential equipment, and other essential goods from local suppliers and producers. They shall ensure that the demand for such products is equitably distributed among all suppliers and producers in the locality.

d) The DOST, through their Provincial Directors, shall facilitate the processing of all agricultural and non-agricultural raw materials and products into preserved goods or ready-to-eat meals, as well as the procurement or production of water filtration devices and systems to be stocked into the Stockpile. The DOST shall likewise ensure that the processed food packs and products do not expire for at least two (2) years.

In the stockpiling process, the DWSD and the DILG, through their Regional Directors, shall provide the DA, DTI, and DOST the necessary data such as the number of beneficiaries per barangay, municipality, city or province, and other necessary information to make sure that the raw materials to be procured and the stocks to be processed will be sufficient for all constituents for at least three (3) weeks following a calamity.

During the initiation and replenishment of stockpiling processes, the DILG and the DSWD shall monitor any change in the number of beneficiaries to make the necessary

adjustments in the process of procurement of raw agricultural and non-agricultural goods and stockpiling.

Section 9. ***Utilization and Deployment.*** – In the event of any calamity, the NDRRMC and the DSWD shall initiate the use and deployment of the stocks in the Stockpile. Any order of utilization and deployment shall be accompanied with a time-specific plan for the replenishment and replacement of the withdrawn supplies.

The NDRRMC, through the local councils, shall issue an order, memorandum, or circular to access and distribute the goods in the Stockpile. They shall likewise facilitate the provision of adequate local transportation from the Stockpile to the affected barangays. The DSWD and the DILG shall identify the areas affected and coordinate with the NDRRMC for the system of utilization, deployment, and distribution of goods in the Stockpile: Provided, That the same shall be efficient and immediate.

A first-in, first-out system or any similar arrangement shall be adopted in the utilization and deployment of the Stockpile. Items and materials that will be near their expiration dates or the end of their shelf-life shall be donated and transferred to the appropriate government agencies and institutions such as the DSWD, the Department of Health, government hospitals and local government units for immediate distribution to indigent citizens or other beneficiaries as may be identified by the concerned agency or institution, subject to immediate replenishment and replacement and reservation for imminent calamities or emergencies.

Section 10. ***Prepositioning of the Stockpile*** . – The NDRRMC may preposition Stockpile goods in secure structures near areas predicted to be affected by disasters, prioritizing island municipalities, geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDA), and 4th to 5th class municipalities. Prepositioned resources in non-DSWD facilities shall be governed by a Prepositioning Agreement.

Section 11. ***Annual Report.*** – The NDRRMC shall submit an annual report to the Office of the President, the Senate, and the House of Representatives within the first quarter of each year, detailing the implementation of this Act. Confidentiality of Stockpile locations shall be maintained.

Section 12. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the NDRRMC, in consultation with the DSWD, DPWH, DTI, DA, DOST, DILG, and other relevant agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

Section 13. ***Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the concerned departments and agencies. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued operation and maintenance of the Stockpiles shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 14. ***Separability Clause.*** – If for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, such parts not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 15. ***Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Section 16. ***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.

Approved,