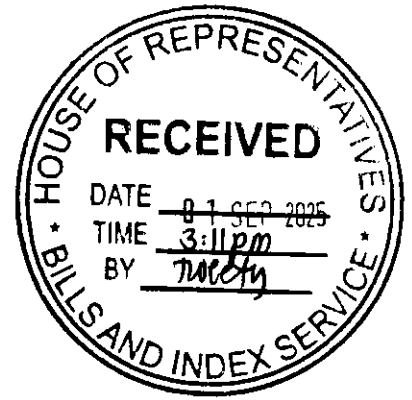


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4240



Introduced by **Representative RAYMOND ADRIAN SALCEDA**

AN ACT
RENAMING THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY COUNCIL INTO THE
NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY COUNCIL, STRENGTHENING ITS POWERS AND
FUNCTIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Food security is central to national stability and resilience. It is not only about production, but also about the capacity to manage stocks, imports, distribution, trade, and price stabilization, particularly in times of shocks.

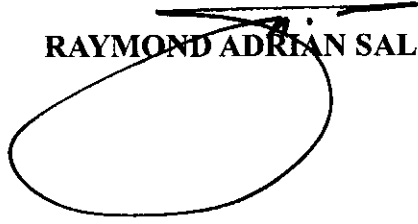
The National Food Authority (NFA) Council, as the governing board of the NFA under Presidential Decree No. 1770 and related issuances, has historically performed key policy functions such as approving buffer stock levels, setting procurement and pricing policies for rice and corn, reviewing import and export programs, and supervising divestment requirements in the grains industry.

However, food security challenges today are broader than the commodity-specific scope envisioned when the NFA Council was created. They involve climate disruptions, global price volatility, nutrition gaps, and disaster risks. To meet these challenges, it is necessary to strengthen the Council's mandate, broaden its membership, and explicitly position it as the government's highest policy-making body on food security.

This bill therefore renames the NFA Council as the National Food Security Council (NFSC), expands its powers to include food security threat assessments and the formulation of a National Food Procurement Plan, ensures transparency in stock and import decisions, and aligns its mandate with the country's development planning and disaster resilience frameworks.

By elevating the NFA Council into the NFSC, this measure creates a whole-of-government, shock-responsive institution that can ensure stable, affordable, and nutritious food for all Filipinos.

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



RAYMOND ADRIAN SALCEDA

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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 “National Food Security Council Act.”

SEC. 2. *Renaming of the NFA Council.* The National Food Authority Council created under Presidential Decree No. 1770 is hereby renamed as the National Food Security Council (NFSC).

SEC. 3. *Mandate.* The NFSC shall be the highest policy-making body on food security. It shall oversee national strategies on food production support, procurement, importation, buffer stocking, distribution, trade, nutrition, and resilience to shocks, in coordination with the National Food Authority and other relevant agencies.

SEC. 4. *Composition.* The NFSC shall be composed of the following:

- (a) The President of the Philippines, or a duly designated representative, as Chairperson
- (b) The Secretary of Agriculture, as Vice Chairperson
- (c) The Secretary of Finance
- (d) The Secretary of Trade and Industry
- (e) The Secretary of Social Welfare and Development
- (f) The Secretary of Health
- (g) The Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources

- (h) The Secretary of Science and Technology
- (i) The Secretary of the Department of Development Planning (DepDev)
- (j) The Governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
- (k) The Administrator of the National Food Authority
- (l) Two representatives from farmers' and consumers' groups, appointed by the President

SEC. 5. *Powers and Functions.* The NFSC shall exercise the following powers and functions:

- (a) Formulate and approve national food security policies and guidelines, consistent with the Philippine Development Plan;
- (b) Determine annual buffer stock levels and procurement strategies for strategic commodities;
- (c) Prepare and annually approve a National Food Procurement Plan, integrating local procurement, imports, and the requirements of social protection and feeding programs;
- (d) Review and recommend to the President strategic import and export policies for rice, corn, and other critical food commodities, including volumes, schedules, and tariff adjustments;
- (e) Establish and maintain a Food Security Threat Assessment System to monitor risks arising from climate shocks, disasters, global supply disruptions, and domestic production shortfalls;
- (f) Recommend to the President emergency measures in times of shortage, including the release of reserves, tariff adjustments, or emergency procurement and importation;
- (g) Ensure transparency by requiring the publication of quarterly food balance sheets, buffer stock positions, and major procurement and importation decisions, subject to safeguards for market-sensitive information;
- (h) Supervise compliance with nationality restrictions and divestment provisions in the rice and corn industry under existing laws, and recommend appropriate measures to safeguard national interest;
- (i) Approve the corporate operating budget, borrowing authority, and major contracts of the National Food Authority, consistent with food security objectives; and
- (j) Perform such other policy-making and advisory functions as may be necessary to safeguard national food security in times of stability or shock.

SEC. 6. *Secretariat.* The National Food Authority shall serve as the Secretariat of the NFSC, providing technical, administrative, and research support.

SEC. 7. *Appropriations.* The amounts necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the National Food Authority. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the NFSC shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, executive orders, and issuances inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.* If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 11. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,