

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4903



Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The "**Disaster Food Bank and Stockpile Act**" is intended to establish a **national framework for the creation, management, and distribution of emergency food supplies** during times of crisis or disaster. These may include natural disasters (e.g., typhoons, earthquakes, floods), pandemics, or other large-scale emergencies that disrupt food supply chains and access to basic nutrition.

The Act addresses the growing need for **systematic disaster preparedness and food security**, especially in the Philippines which is prone to frequent calamities. During emergencies, food becomes a critical resource. Establishing an organized food bank and stockpile system helps reduce hunger, prevent malnutrition, and maintain social stability.

This measure aims to:

- a) enhance **food security and resilience** in disaster-prone areas.
- b) improve **response time and coordination** in emergencies
- c) reduce **reliance on ad hoc food relief operations**.

This bill has been previously approved on Third Reading by the 19th Congress and recognizing the wisdom and noble intents of the colleagues in the last Congress, the passage of this legislation is hereby earnestly endorsed.


ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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House Bill No. **4903**

Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

**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**

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – Short Title. -This Act shall be known as the
"**Disaster Food Bank and Stockpile Act**".

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is declared the policy of the State to protect the people from the adverse effects of calamities and emergencies by ensuring a sufficient and adequate supply of essential items and materials and preventing whenever possible the dangerous and costly dependence of the Philippines on foreign nations and organizations for suppliers of such items and materials and the country's vulnerability to production and supply-chain disruptions.

Consistent with Republic Act No. 10121 or the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010 which mandates, among others, the institutionalization of arrangement and measures for reducing disaster risks, including projected climate risks, and enhancing disaster preparedness and response capabilities at all levels. (please see DSWD Comment)

Furthermore, Article II, Section 9 of the Constitution declares that "the State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all".

These policies and principles shall be upheld and promoted by ensuring adequate and immediate supply of food, water, and other essential goods to all

vulnerable sectors (please see DSWD Comment) during calamities through strategic prepositioning of the same in all provinces and highly urbanized cities of the Philippines.

In achieving the same, the implementers shall likewise promote agriculture, livelihood, and income generation for local producers by using the agricultural products of the locality for the supplies to be stored in the Disaster Food Bank and Stockpile covered by this Act.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. – As used in this Act: (please see DSWD Comment)

(a) ***Essential items or goods*** refer to the basic supplies needed for survival and safety during and after an emergency or natural disaster. These items typically include food, water, first aid supplies, sanitation and hygiene products, clothing, shelter, and communication devices.

(b) ***State of calamity*** refers to a status that could be declared widespread within the country, or certain localities, in response to a destructive, natural, or man-made disaster. It formally recognizes that a disaster has caused widespread damage and disrupted normal life within its jurisdiction. This declaration triggers a set of procedures and protocols to facilitate relief efforts, recovery, and resource mobilization. The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) has the power to recommend to the President of the Philippines the declaration of a group of barangays, municipalities, cities, provinces, regions or the entire country under a state of calamity, and the lifting thereof, based on the criteria set by the NDRRMC. A state of national calamity is effective until the President lifts it. A state of calamity could also be declared or lifted by a local government unit's *sanggunian*, upon the recommendation of the local disaster risk reduction and management council (LDRRMC) concerned, based on damage assessment and needs analysis. **(Section 16, RA 10121)**

(c) ***First In, First Out System*** is an inventory management system where the oldest stock is sold or used before newer stock. This method is crucial in dealing with perishable goods or items with expiration dates, like food or pharmaceuticals. FIFO helps minimize waste, optimize inventory control, and improve overall efficiency

(d) **Disaster Food Bank and Stockpile Structure ("Structure")** – a calamity-proof structure or warehouse where the Stockpile shall be housed, to be designed and constructed by the DPWH

(e) **Family Food Packs (FFPs)** are essential for providing immediate relief to disaster-affected families. It contains various recommended food items for a family of five (5) members good for two (2) days of consumption.

(f) **Ready to Eat Food (RTEF)** is a self-contained Halal meal to be provided to displaced persons within 48 hours after the onset of disaster when organized cooking and cooking facilities/ utensils are limited or unavailable.

(g) The **National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC)** serves as the President's adviser on disaster preparedness programs, disaster operations and rehabilitation efforts undertaken by the government and the private sector.

(h) **Prepositioning and stockpiling** are crucial elements of disaster preparedness, involving the strategic placement and storage of resources in advance of a potential emergency. This practice ensures a faster and more efficient response by having essential supplies readily available when and where they are needed most

SEC. 4. Establishment of Disaster Food Bank and Stockpile. – A Disaster Food Bank and Stockpile, hereinafter referred to as the Stockpile, shall be established as central repository and supply reserve of food, water, medicines, vaccines, antidotes, and other critical medical supplies, and other essential goods such as, portable power source, first aid kits, portable light source, clothing, tents, and communication devices in every province and highly urbanized city of the Philippines: Provided, That such items and materials shall be non-perishable or shall have a shelf life of at least two (2) years, for food items: Provided further, that if simultaneous establishment of the same in all provinces and highly urbanized cities is impracticable due to financial and logistical considerations, priority shall be given to island provinces or island regions, coastal provinces, earthquake-prone provinces, provinces with a highly active volcano, and other similarly situated provinces.

The establishment of the Stockpile shall be an inter-agency effort, headed by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). The expertise and

cooperation of the following agencies shall likewise be required for the full and efficient implementation of this Act:

- (1) Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH);
- (2) Department of Trade and Industry (DTI);
- (3) Department of Agriculture (DA);
- (4) Department of Science and Technology (DOST); and
- (5) Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

SEC. 5. Location of the Stockpile. – The NDRRMC shall determine the actual locations of the Stockpile, taking into consideration equitable distribution among the regions of the country, accessibility, safety and security from natural and human-induced disasters, and the immediate release of the stockpile in case of a disaster or an emergency. The actual locations shall be kept strictly confidential and shall not be publicly disseminated

SEC. 6. Disaster Food Bank and Stockpile Structure. – Every Stockpile shall be housed in a calamity-proof structure or warehouse, hereinafter referred to as the Structure, to be designed and constructed by the DPWH. Said Structure shall be designed with the following specifications and considerations:

- (a) The Structure shall be able to withstand Category 5 typhoons, high magnitude earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and storm surges;
- (b) The size and volumetric capacity of the Structure shall be sufficient to hold supplies of food, water, essential goods, and other basic necessities for the whole population of the province for at least three (3) weeks;
- (c) The Structure shall be powered using sustainable sources such as solar, wind, or hydro-electric power, and shall have backup power in case of power outages;
- (d) Measures shall be taken to ensure that the Structure is secure from unauthorized access, thievery, and looting. Limited and secure access granted to the officials in charge of its maintenance and replenishment shall likewise be included in the design; and
- (e) The Structure shall be vermin-proof and well-insulated and designed to be fire-resistant and fully equipped with fire extinguishers in case of fires resulting from electrical fault, accident, or arson.

SEC. 7. Quantity and Replenishment of the Stockpile. – The quantity and volume of the Stockpile shall be strictly and regularly monitored and maintained. Replenishment, replacement, and addition to the Stockpile shall be done on an annual basis or as often as may be deemed necessary. Pursuant to this, a computerized system for the real-time monitoring of the date of expiration and shelf-life of the items and materials in the Stockpile shall be set up to avoid unnecessary wastage and decay. If after the lapse of twelve (12) months from any instance of stockpiling, the remaining unused goods in a Stockpile shall be distributed by the DSWD to the indigent communities through any of their 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 good, basic medication, water, and ready-to-eat food (RTEF) including the locally processed 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 that¹ 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 DSWD 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 adjustment in the process of procurement of raw agricultural and non-agricultural goods and stockpiling.

SEC. 8. Utilization and Deployment of the Stockpile. – 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.

SEC. 9. Prepositioning of the Stockpile. – In preparation of the occurrence of a disaster or calamity that can be reasonably predicted using available technology or information, the NDRRMC shall preposition items and materials from the Stockpile in secured Structures near the areas expected to be affected by the disaster or calamity.

SEC. 10. Annual Report. – The NDRRMC shall submit to the Office of the President, the Senate of the Philippines, and the House of Representatives, within the first quarter of every year, an annual report relating to the progress of the implementation of this Act. The confidentiality of the locations of the Stockpile shall be observed in the Annual Report.

SEC. 11. 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, and other relevant government agencies, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

SEC. 12. Appropriations. – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the departments and agencies concerned. Thereafter, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 13. Separability Clause. – If, for any reason any section, subsection, clause, or term of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, such parts not affected by such declaration shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 14. Repealing Clause. – All existing laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby amended, modified, or repealed accordingly.

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

Approved,