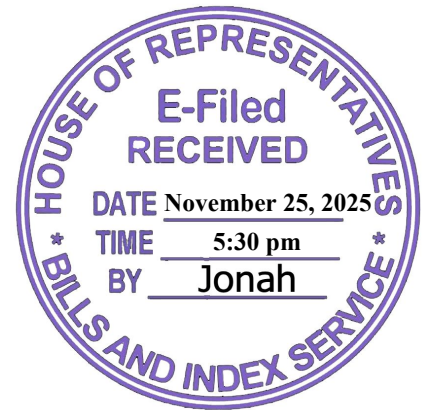


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6374



Introduced by **HON. JOSEPH "JOJO" L. LARA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is among the most disaster-prone countries in the world. Situated along the Pacific Ring of Fire and within the typhoon belt, the nation regularly experiences typhoons, floods, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and other natural calamities. These disasters often result in widespread displacement, disruption of supply chains, and shortages of food and essential goods—conditions that place affected families in situations of extreme vulnerability.

While the national government and local government units (LGUs) maintain emergency supplies, the recurring experience during major disasters shows that relief distribution is often hampered by logistical challenges, damaged transportation networks, and delays in mobilization. Communities in geographically isolated or high-risk areas are particularly affected, sometimes waiting days before adequate food assistance reaches them.

This bill seeks to address these gaps by establishing a Disaster Food Bank and Stockpile in every province and highly urbanized city in the Philippines. These localized facilities will ensure the availability of readily accessible, properly managed, and strategically stored food supplies that can be deployed immediately in times of disaster or emergency. By decentralizing the stockpiling of relief goods, the measure significantly reduces response time and enhances the resilience of communities.

The proposed Disaster Food Banks will serve as secure, climate-resilient storage facilities designed to preserve essential commodities such as rice, canned goods, drinking water, infant formula, and other nutritionally adequate food items. The bill also mandates guidelines for maintenance, periodic replenishment, and quality control to avoid wastage and ensure that all items remain safe for consumption. Coordination between the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), and LGUs is also emphasized to standardize operations and improve efficiency.

Furthermore, the bill provides for the necessary appropriations to construct, equip, and maintain said facilities. By investing in preparedness rather than relying solely on post-disaster relief, the government stands to reduce the long-term social and economic impacts of calamities.

In light of the increasing frequency and severity of natural disasters, it is imperative for the State to strengthen its disaster preparedness and response mechanisms. The creation of Disaster Food Banks and Stockpiles across all provinces and highly urbanized cities is a proactive, cost-effective, and life-saving strategy to safeguard the welfare of our people.

This bill has passed third reading in the previous congress and its passage in the 20th Congress is earnestly sought.


JOSEPH "JOJO" L. LARA

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6374

Introduced by **HON. JOSEPH “JOJO” L. LARA**

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND CONSTRUCTION OF A DISASTER
FOOD BANK AND STOCKPILE IN 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. – 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.

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 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.

SECTION 3. 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).

SECTION 4. 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.

SECTION 5. 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.

SECTION 6. 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 meals 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 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 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.

SECTION 7. 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.

SECTION 8. 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.

SECTION 9. 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.

SECTION 10. 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.

SECTION 11. 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.

SECTION 12. 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.

SECTION 13. 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.

SECTION 14. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,