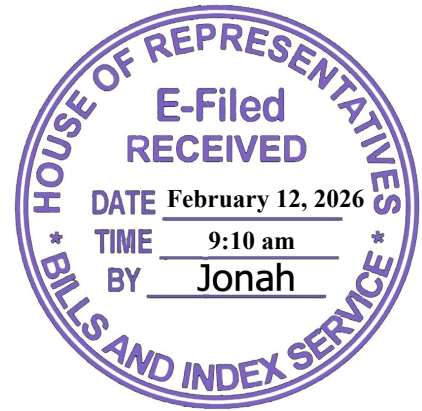


TWENTIETH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 7781

Introduced by Rep. CARMELO G. LAZATIN, JR.

AN ACT

MANDATING THE INTEGRATION OF THE “WALANG PLASTIKAN, PALIT-BIGAS” PROGRAM IN THE TEN-YEAR SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN OF ALL PROVINCES, CITIES, AND MUNICIPALITIES PURSUANT TO REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9003, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “ECOLOGICAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2000”

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Solid waste is a serious global concern that affects ecosystems and human lives. Years of improper waste disposal and the ever-increasing volume of waste generation have contributed to flooding and other disasterS, which have claimed thousands of lives and caused millions of pesos in property damage.

Every year, an estimated 11.2 billion tons of solid waste are collected worldwide.¹ The Philippines alone generates 14.6 million tons of municipal solid waste, based on data from the 2025 World Bank *What a Waste* Global Database.²

In the same report, it was revealed that the Philippines ranked 27th among the 50 countries studied in terms of waste generation.

¹ Solid waste management.UN environment programme. Available at <https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/resource-efficiency/what-we-do/cities/solid-waste-management#:~:text=Poor%20waste%20management%20%2D%20ranging%20from%20non%2Dexisting,and%20can%20cause%20infection%20and%20transmit%20diseases.>

² PH produces almost 15 million tons of waste every year. By Kurt Dela Peña. October 2, 2025. Available at <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2118471/ph-produces-almost-15-million-tons-of-waste-every-year>

With the alarming volume of waste, there is a dire need for more sustainable solid waste management programs. Republic Act No. 9003, or the “*Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000*,” which mandates, among others, waste segregation at source, waste minimization, recycling, composting, proper disposal, the prohibition of open dumping, and the establishment of Materials Recovery Facilities.

Despite these measures, full and sustained compliance remains a challenge, largely due to gaps in community participation and the lack of incentives at the household level.

Recognizing this continuous challenge, this proposed legislation mandates the integration of the “*Walang Plastikan, Palit-Bigas*” Program into the ten-year Solid Waste Management Plan of all provinces, cities, and municipalities, consistent with Republic Act 9003. The program provides an incentive mechanism that encourages individuals to segregate plastic wastes and other recyclables, in exchange for rice, the staple food of Filipinos.

Programs that swap plastic waste products for food items have already been implemented in several areas, including Angeles City; Magallanes, Cavite; San Jacinto, Masbate; Barangay Dalupaon, Pasacao, Camarines Sur; Pagbilao, Quezon; Tarlac and Bolinao, Pangasinan. These local government units have documented positive outcomes such as improved segregation at source, increased community participation, and cleaner streets and major thoroughfares.

In Angeles City, the local government reportedly collected 1,693,213 kilograms of plastic waste in 2022. In 2023, a total of 932,863 kilograms of plastic waste were exchanged for rice, and from January to March of 2024, a total of 2,925,631 kilograms were collected. The collected waste was segregated, collected and converted to *plastic bricks*, thereby reducing disposal volumes and costs.

This system may be further enhanced through partnership with organizations and companies capable of repurposing or recycling collected plastic waste into other materials. Such partnerships may serve as an interim option for local government units that still lack the capability to establish recycling facilities, such as the ICE Hub of Pasig City, which transforms collected waste into usable and marketable products.

This initiative may also be economically beneficial to the government, as it can reduce costs related to collection and processing, tipping fees at sanitary landfills, operation and maintenance of materials recovery facilities and labor. Likewise, private partners engaged in recycling and repurposing may have the necessary facilities and equipment to ensure environmentally sound processing of waste and by-products.

Further, the program supports the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), particularly SDG 2: Zero Hunger and SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production.

It is high time for the government to pursue simple yet effective means of managing solid waste while promoting food security. This can be achieved through community participation, strengthened local solid waste management planning, and optimized use of available government resources.

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


CARMELO G. LAZATIN, JR.



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

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MANDATING THE INTEGRATION OF THE “WALANG PLASTIKAN, PALIT-BIGAS” PROGRAM IN THE TEN-YEAR SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN OF ALL PROVINCES, CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES, PURSUANT TO REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9003, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “ECOLOGICAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2000”

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Walang Plastikan, Palit-Bigas
2 Act.”

3 Section 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – it hereby declared the policy of the State to adopt a
4 systematic, comprehensive, and ecological waste management program that ensures the protection
5 of public health and environment, consistent with Republic Act No. 9003.

6 The State shall promote waste avoidance and volume reduction through segregation at
7 source, re-use, recycling, and recovery, and shall encourage public participation in solid waste
8 management through incentive-based programs.

9 Toward this end, the State shall encourage local government units to adopt incentive
10 mechanisms, including the exchange of segregated plastic wastes and other recyclables for rice, to
11 strengthen community compliance, reduce residual waste, and support food security, especially
12 among marginalized sectors.

1 Section 3. *Walang Plastikan, Palit-Bigas Program.* – the “Walang Plastikan Palit-Bigas”
2 Program is an incentive-based mechanism whereby individuals or households may exchange
3 segregated plastic waste and other recyclables, as may be determined by the local government unit
4 for rice.

5 The program is intended to: (a) promote segregation at source; (b) increase diversion
6 through re-use, recycling, and recovery; and (c) reduce the volume of residual waste requiring
7 disposal.

8 Pursuant to the provisions of Republic Act No. 9003, all provinces, cities, and
9 municipalities, through their respective Local Solid Waste Management Boards, shall integrate
10 the Program as a component of their ten-year Local Solid Waste Management Plan and shall adopt
11 implementing guidelines appropriate to local conditions, including eligibility requirements,
12 exchange rates or point systems, collection schedules, and coordination with barangay materials
13 recovery facilities or other authorized facilities.

14 Section 4. *Appropriation of Funds.* – The amount necessary for the implementation of the
15 “Walang Plastikan, Palit-Bigas” Program shall be charged against the available funds of the
16 concerned local government units, subject to accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

17 Section 5. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional
18 or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

19
20 Section 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, or parts
21 thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

22
23 Section 7. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
24 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

25
26 Approved,