

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
20th Congress
House of Representatives
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10278



**AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE STABILIZATION OF PRICES OF RICE
AND OTHER BASIC FOOD COMMODITIES, ESTABLISHING A
NATIONAL FOOD PRICE BUFFER FUND, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Sudden spikes in the price of rice and other basic food commodities hit poor and low-income Filipino families the hardest, since food accounts for the largest share of their household budget. Existing buffer-stocking programs are often underfunded and activated too late to prevent price shocks from reaching consumers. This bill creates a standing National Food Price Buffer Fund, sourced from a fixed share of tariff collections on imported agricultural products, to allow the National Food Authority and the Department of Agriculture to pre-position buffer stocks of rice and other staples and release them immediately when retail prices breach a defined threshold.

The measure aims to blunt the impact of price spikes before they reach the dinner table, rather than reacting only after public outcry.

Respectfully submitted,


REP. ALEXANDER T. PIMENTEL

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "National Food Price
Stabilization Act."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. — It is the policy of the State to
protect consumers from undue and abrupt increases in the price of basic
food commodities and to maintain adequate buffer stocks of staple goods
at all times.

SECTION 3. Creation of the National Food Price Buffer Fund. —
There is hereby created a National Food Price Buffer Fund, to be sourced
from ten percent (10%) of all tariff and duty collections on imported rice,
sugar, and other agricultural products as may be determined by the
Department of Finance, to be used exclusively for the procurement,
storage, and emergency release of buffer stocks of basic food commodities.

SECTION 4. Automatic Trigger for Release. — Whenever the average
retail price of rice or any basic food commodity monitored by the
Department of Trade and Industry rises by ten percent (10%) or more
within a thirty (30)-day period, the National Food Authority, in
coordination with the Department of Agriculture, shall immediately release
buffer stocks into the affected markets at a subsidized price.

SECTION 5. Farmgate Protection. — The buffer stock program shall
not be used to depress farmgate prices below the support price set for local
farmers, and procurement for the buffer fund shall prioritize locally
produced staples.

SECTION 6. Reporting Requirement. — The National Food Authority shall submit a quarterly report to Congress on fund utilization, buffer stock levels, and price trends.

SECTION 7. Appropriations. — The initial capitalization of the Fund shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the National Food Authority, and thereafter funded through the tariff share provided under Section 4.

SECTION 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — The Department of Agriculture, the National Food Authority, and the Department of Trade and Industry shall jointly issue implementing rules within sixty (60) days from effectivity.

SECTION 9. Separability Clause. — If any provision of this Act is declared invalid, the other provisions not affected shall remain in force.

SECTION 10. Repealing Clause. — All laws, decrees, executive orders, and issuances inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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