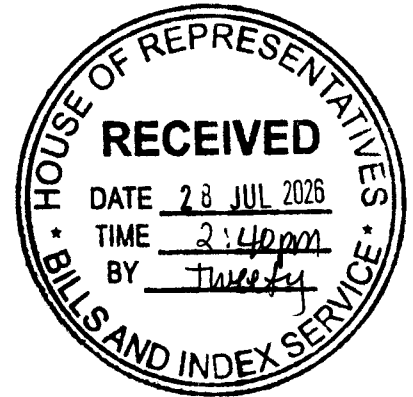




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 10295

Introduced by Representative Nelson S. Legacion
Third Congressional District, Camarines Sur

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 10121, otherwise known as the "*Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010*," mandates, among others, the institutionalization of arrangements and measures for reducing disaster risks, including projected climate risks, and enhancing disaster preparedness and response capabilities at all levels. As defined therein, "disaster preparedness" encompasses activities such as contingency planning, stockpiling of equipment and supplies, the development of arrangements for coordination, evacuation, and public information, alongside associated training and field exercises.

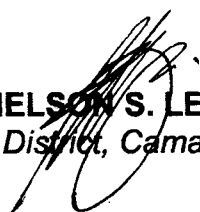
Several countries have set up and maintained national stockpiles over the years to ensure that food and essential supplies remain continuously available during emergencies. Prominent global models include the Singapore Food Agency and the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority of Singapore, which systematically diversify food reserves, as well as the United States' Strategic National Stockpile (SNS), which secures critical medical countermeasures and industrial supplies to insulate the population from sudden shortages. Furthermore, neighboring regional nations such as Taiwan and South Korea have pioneered highly decentralized and accessible disaster stockpiles, strategically placing emergency reserves within high-density public infrastructure nodes, such as transit stations to guarantee immediate local access during acute crises.

Following the severe global supply chain disruptions triggered by the pandemic, armed conflicts, and trade uncertainties, establishing institutional reserves has become a rational and necessary governance response to guarantee an immediate, reliable supply of basic necessities during shocks. Additionally, considering the Philippines' acute vulnerability to severe weather disturbances, volatile geological phenomena, and the adverse effects of a rapidly changing climate, our national disaster preparedness and response strategies must be structurally augmented.

This measure seeks to institutionalize the systematic mobilization and strategic prepositioning of food and non-food reserves nationwide to guarantee immediate humanitarian assistance for displaced populations during emergencies. The proposed framework draws from critical institutional lessons during the COVID-19 pandemic, a crisis that highlighted the vulnerabilities of relying on external supply chains amidst an absence of decentralized, localized stockpiles of personal protective equipment (PPE) and essential medical countermeasures. To safeguard public health and ensure structural readiness against future biological and natural hazards, this bill establishes a permanent domestic reserve. In line with successful regional precedents, these reserves prioritize decentralized placement to ensure maximum operational availability. The proposed stockpile shall be housed in a secure, calamity-proof facility and jointly administered by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

This measure is an improved and refiled version of House Bill No. 8463, which was approved on Third and Final Reading by the House of Representatives and transmitted to the Senate on August 22, 2023, during the Nineteenth Congress.

In light of the vital importance of safeguarding food, health, and life security during national emergencies, the immediate passage of this legislation is earnestly sought.


NELSON S. LEGACION
Representative, Third District, Camarines Sur



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House Bill No. **10295**

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Third Congressional District, Camarines Sur

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. -This Act shall be known as the "*Disaster Food Bank and Stockpile Act*".

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect the people from the adverse effects of calamities and emergencies by ensuring a continuous, immediate, and adequate supply of essential items and materials, consistent with the mandate of Article II, Section 9 of the Constitution, 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."

Cognizant of the severe lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic, where the country faced critical vulnerabilities due to the absence of strategic, pre-assembled reserves, the State shall proactively institutionalize comprehensive supply safeguards. To achieve this, the State shall prevent, whenever possible, the dangerous and costly dependence of the Philippines on foreign nations and international organizations for critical resources, thereby reducing the country's vulnerability to production and supply-chain disruptions.

These policies and principles shall be upheld and promoted by ensuring 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 established under 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 for every province and highly urbanized city of the Philippines, intended for basic and augmentation support along disaster response and recovery operations: *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: *Provided, furthermore*, That existing warehouses and structures used by the government in storing and prepositioning food and non-food items during calamities may be converted or upgraded into a Food Bank and Stockpile in accordance with the minimum standards set under this Act: *Provided, finally*. That contiguous provinces and highly urbanized cities may temporarily share Disaster Food Bank and Stockpile among each other, in the absence of readily available land or structures which meet the specifications set under this Act.

SECTION 4. *Management and Supervision of the Disaster Food Bank and Stockpile.* - The Stockpile shall be jointly managed and supervised 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 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 strategic mobilization and 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 6. *Disaster Food Bank and Stockpile Structure.* - Every Stockpile shall be housed in a specialized, calamity-proof warehouse, hereinafter referred to as the "Structure," to be designed and constructed by the DPWH. The Structure shall conform to the following rigorous engineering standards:

- a. It must be structurally resilient against Category 5 typhoons, high-magnitude earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and severe storm surges;
- b. Its spatial and volumetric capacity must be sufficient to hold adequate supplies of food, water, and basic necessities for the entire baseline population of the host province or highly urbanized city for a minimum duration of three (3) weeks;
- c. It shall be powered primarily by sustainable and independent energy sources, including solar, wind, or hydro-electric micro-systems, and must be equipped with automated backup power units;
- d. Rigorous structural and technological measures shall be integrated to secure the facility from unauthorized access, theft, and looting, including restricted, secure-access portals for authorized inventory personnel; and
- e. It must be thoroughly vermin-proof, well-insulated, fire-resistant, and fully equipped with automated fire extinguishing systems to prevent losses from electrical faults, accidents, or arson.

SECTION 7. *Quantity, Monitoring, and Replenishment.* – The volume and condition of the Stockpile shall be strictly monitored. Inventory replenishment, replacement, and optimization shall be conducted on an annual basis or as frequently as necessary.

A centralized digital inventory system for real-time monitoring of product expiration dates and shelf-life metrics shall be established to mitigate wastage. If, after a period of twelve (12) months from stockpiling, specific items remain unused and are nearing their optimal shelf life, the DSWD shall immediately distribute them to indigent communities through its existing social protection programs.

The procurement and regular replenishment of supplies shall be executed through the coordinated efforts of the DSWD, DTI, DA, and DOST, in adherence to the following mandates:

- a. The DSWD shall:
 1. Periodically update the standard components of the Family Food Pack (FFP) to ensure it includes baseline caloric necessities, ready-to-eat meals, clean water, and essential medicines, consciously incorporating locally processed goods produced by local farmers and micro-producers; and
 2. Direct its existing relief procurement funds to systematically absorb the collated outputs of local agricultural and micro-scale industries.

- b. The DA, through its Provincial Directors, shall organize farmers and micro-producers within their respective jurisdictions to streamline the volume production and government purchase of local produce, ensuring that procurement demands are equitably distributed among smallholders.
- c. The DTI, through its Provincial Directors, shall facilitate the bulk procurement of non-agricultural essential items, such as emergency apparel, temporary shelter materials, and primary survival tools from qualified local suppliers.
- d. The DOST, through its Provincial Directors, shall provide advanced food processing technology to transform local raw agricultural inputs into long-shelf-life preserved goods or ready-to-eat rations, facilitate the deployment of robust water filtration systems, and scientifically ensure that processed food packs maintain a shelf life of no less than two (2) years.

The DSWD and the DILG, through their respective Regional Directors, shall provide the DA, DTI, and DOST with accurate baseline demographic data including localized beneficiary counts per barangay, municipality, and city, to guarantee that resource procurement maps to a minimum three-week localized survival standard following a disaster event.

SECTION 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.

SECTION 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.

The following areas are the priority for prepositioning of food and non-food items:

- a. Island municipalities;
- b. Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas 7 (GIDA) or Hard to Reach Areas; and
- c. 4th to 5th class municipalities.

All relief resources prepositioned in the strategic areas not owned by the DSWD shall be subject to the provisions of a Prepositioning Agreement between the DSWD and its partner organization.

SECTION 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.

SECTION 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.

SECTION 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.

SECTION 13. *Separability Clause.* - If for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, such parts not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 14. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 15. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,