

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 186

Introduced by Representative Michael L. Romero

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Republic of the Philippines cannot rely on importation to supplement its food needs. We must find a permanent and lasting solution to our recurring food supply shortage.

Rice, being the national food, deserves a special consideration. We must ensure a stable and sufficient rice production by involving as many stakeholders as possible in the agricultural sector.

We must review the mandate and flow of operations of all our government agencies involved in the production and distribution of all our key food products (specially rice) to improve synergy in pursuant to the mandate of this House Bill.

This House Bill envisions a highly acceptable and perpetual solution to the perennial problem on the supply of our key food products. It has been proven that the food supplies from overseas sources are very erratic and therefore very unreliable.

Our farmers should be encourage to produce more to meet our domestic food demands, they should be provided with adequate support through irrigation, better seedlings, enhanced stocking, improved farm mechanization, and accessible and agricultural credits.

Thus, the early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.


MICHAEL L. ROMERO Ph.D.

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AN ACT

**STRENGTHENING FOOD SECURITY, ESTABLISHING THE FOOD
SECURITY COUNCIL, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. Title – this act shall be known as the “**FOOD SECURITY
ACT OF 2019**”.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy – it shall be the policy of the
state to:

1. Ensure sufficient grains and all other key products specifically those manufactured from domestically land-based agricultural activities.
2. Promote reasonable prices specially during times of calamities and in all cases of emergency situations.

3. Take the lead role in order to provide the necessary resources, planning, organizational and control systems to optimize the agricultural production.
4. Provide the appropriate technical support, regulatory principles, and monetary guidelines.
5. Initiate progress monitoring to all sectors actively involved.

SECTION 3. Mission and Vision – to institutionalize all foregoing policies, the Republic of the Philippines shall focus all its development plans and programs towards the achievement of the following:

- Improve the income of all farmers and agricultural communities;
- Provide all the necessary subsidies and production support;
- Organize inter-relationships among stakeholders within the food industry;
- Maximize food supply efficiency;
- Establish negotiability with integrity for all guarantees;
- Development of guidelines to enhance transparency and competitiveness;
- Adopt innovative techniques to reduce cost and improve quality;
- Protect local farmers from the impact of globalization;
- Enable local farmers to gain access to enhance post-harvest facilities;
- Encourage the private sector to engage;
- Enable the private sector to participate in this production;
- Promote government guarantees;
- Access capital market funding for food production;
- Preserve strategic reserves of all key agricultural products;
- Maintain a good buffer stock for all food essentials throughout the year;
and
- Maximize the production of all key food products.

SECTION 4. Implementing Guidelines: for purposes of this act, To execute the foregoing policy, there is hereby creating the FOOD SECURITY COUNCIL. This council shall have the overall authority and responsibility and accountability for crafting and formulating a comprehensive program for the implementation of these policies.

The FOOD SECURITY COUNCIL shall be composed of the following:

- Secretary – Department of Agriculture
- Secretary – Department of Trade and Industry
- Secretary – Department of Finance
- President – Land Bank of the Philippines
- Administrator – National Food Authority
- Representative – Famers sector
- Representative – Consumer sector
- Representative – Private sector
- Representative – Grains, Seeds sector
- Representatives – Dominant Farmers Party list

The Council shall formulate its own implementing rules and regulations to govern its proceedings. The Council shall choose its official home base, and organize a staffing protocol to aid and carry out its functions.

SECTION 5. Capacity and Role of the Council

To engage and assure the Food Security Policy of the state, the Council shall have the following powers:

1. To establish satisfying levels of annual inventory based on the appropriate calendar year for all key food products. Meeting the minimum indicated factors of the following:

- Keeping the prices of all key food products stable;
- Improving farmer's income, ideal levels for production;
- Identify the regions where productions are to be domestically produced or foreign sources if they are to be imported;
- Indicate the strategic services for these key food products; and
- Institutionalize the interaction and relations of the availability and supply of these key food products.

2. To enforce and create, through agencies the appropriate standards of the following:

- Transfer of these key food products;
- Preservation;
- Benchmark of practice and packaging;
- Units of measurement;
- Analysis and testing;
- Specifications;
- Inspection and sampling;
- Storage;
- Distribution and shipping;
- Milling and drying;
- Handling, hauling and grading

3. To mandate the specific agencies to effectively seizure whenever there is improper acquisitions (hoarding, cornering) of these key food products. Including all facilities and machineries used;
4. To authorize inspection by these specific agencies of these key products that are stored in private warehouses, for inventory;
5. To implement monitoring and progress tracking of these key products for prices and stocks movement;
6. To locate and encourage the creation of food terminal markets on a nationwide scale;
7. To identify trading centers to serve as a conduit facility;
8. To promote efficient distribution to all consumers;
9. To promote a transparent marketing system;
10. To enhance the interest of more farmers and consumers;
11. To track the demand and supply indicators of these key food products. All imports and exports in coordination with the Bureau of Customs;
12. To monitor the impact on farmers income, their standards of living, and consumer prices in collaboration with the Department of Trade and Industry;
13. To create the appropriate implementing rules and regulations governing the importation of all key food products.
14. To establish an annual ideal inventory level, in the concept of licensing, and;

15. To prescribe penalties and fines for non-compliance.

SECTION 6. Appropriation

The amount determined by the Food Security Council for the implementation of this Act shall be charged under the existing funding of the Department of Agriculture.

Thereafter such amounts necessary for the successive and continuous implementation of this Act, including the operations maintenance of reserves shall be automatically appropriated in the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 7. Repealing Clause. All laws, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. Separability Clause. If, for any reason or reasons, any portion or provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. Effectivity Clause. This Act shall take effect (15) days upon publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,