

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **2957**



Introduced by Representative GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A *TIMBANGAN NG BAYAN* CENTER IN ALL PUBLIC MARKETS NATIONWIDE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE, CHAPTER II OF THE CONSUMER ACT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This piece of legislation seeks to establish a *Timbangan ng Bayan Center* in all public markets throughout the country by introducing an amendment to the Consumer Act of the Philippines.

The volatility of our economy due to numerous uncontrollable factors, one of which is the global economic slowdown, has caused prices of prime commodities to scale to prohibitive heights making it more and more difficult for the average Filipino household to put a decent meal on their tables. Therefore, the last thing that our people need is to be victimized by devious businessmen who take advantage by giving them much less than what their hard-earned money is really worth.

The establishment of a *Timbangan ng Bayan Center* in all public markets nationwide will provide the buying public an effective means of checking the accuracy of the weight and quantity of the goods they are buying while at the same time, discouraging dishonest vendors to commit any irregularity because of the imminence of getting caught in *flagrante delicto*.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this proposed measure is earnestly recommended.


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

Section 1. Chapter 1 of Republic Act No. 7394, otherwise known as the Consumer Act of the Philippines, is hereby amended to include the following Article:

ARTICLE 62-A. ESTABLISHMENT OF *TIMBANGAN NG BAYAN* CENTERS. – ALL LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, THROUGH THEIR PROVINCIAL, CITY OR MUNICIPAL TREASURERS, SHALL ESTABLISH A *TIMBANGAN NG BAYAN* CENTER IN ALL PUBLIC MARKETS NATIONWIDE WHERE INSTRUMENTS FOR DETERMINING WEIGHTS AND MEASURES SHALL BE OPEN FOR AND ACCESSIBLE TO ANY ONE WHO WNATS TO VERIFY THE ACCURACY OF THE QUANTITY AND MEASUREMENT OF THE PRODUCTS THAT THEY PURCHASED.

THE SAFEKEEPING AND MAINTENANCE OF SAID INSTRUMENTS SHALL BE UNDER THE CONTROL AND SUPERVISION OF THE MARKET SUPERVISOR WHO SHALL LIKEWISE BE IN CHARGE OF KEEPING A RECORD OF EVERY PRODUCT FOUND TO BE WANTING IN QUANTITY OR SUBSTANDARD IN DIMENSION AS WELL AS THE ESTABLISHMENT WHERE THE SAME WAS BOUGHT INCLUDING THE NAME OF THE PROPRIETOR OR MANAGER THEREOF. A CERTIFICATION DULY ISSUED BY THE MARKET SUPERVISOR OR HIS AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE REFLECTING THE CONTENTS OF SUCH RECORD SHALL BE PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE OF VIOLATION OF THE PROHIBITED ACTS PROVIDED IN ARTICLE 64.

Sec. 2. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,