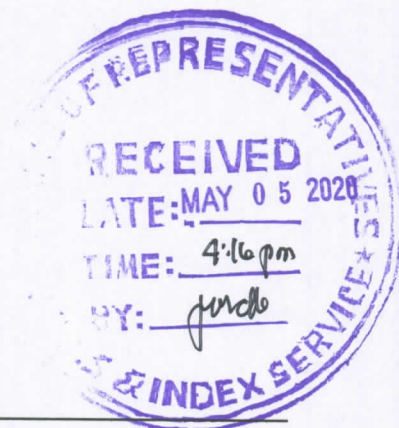


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
18TH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6689



Introduced by Representative EVELINA G. ESCUDERO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Grounded on the constitutional prescription on social justice and the fundamental principles of food security, this bill seeks to establish stability in the production and purchase of local produce of domestic farmers and producers, and at the same time to provide support to the government's social amelioration programs in times of crisis.

Consequently, it mandates, as a matter of priority, both the national and local governments to buy local produce first to the exclusion of foreign or imported produce under certain requirements and conditions.

This proposal is not intended to shun importation or the trade and consumption of foreign or imported goods but as a reasonable policy to promote and safeguard the country's local produce. It ensures both income and production for local farmers and producers, thereby strengthening food security and supply chain. If adopted as a matter of practice, it is believed that it will not only address subsisting food insecurities and social amelioration woes under normal situation but more so in times of crisis, especially in this current Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID 19) pandemic where the whole world is greatly affected by its highly contagious nature.

Respectfully submitted.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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House Bill No. 6689

Introduced by Representative EVELINA G. ESCUDERO

AN ACT
MANDATING THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO
PURCHASE THE PRODUCE OF LOCAL FARMERS OR PRODUCERS
FOR RELIEF AND SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMS

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

Section 1. Declaration of Policy. It is hereby declared as a policy of the State, consistent with the constitutional provisions on social justice and the fundamental principles on food security, to ensure local food production.

As such, priority must be accorded to the produce of local farmers and producers in terms of governmental purchases intended for social amelioration policies such as relief and school feeding programs.

Sec. 2. Mandatory Purchase. – The National Government, through its various departments and agencies, and local government units shall prioritize the purchase of local produce of local farmers and producers intended for relief and school feeding programs. Prioritizing the purchase of local produce shall mean the exhaustion of all available and applicable local produce at the most reasonable and practicable cost before resorting to imported or foreign produce.

Moreover, in the case of local government units, produce of local farmers and producers within their respective territorial jurisdictions shall take precedence over other produce outside their respective territorial jurisdictions to lower transportation or other hauling costs in the delivery of such produce.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed as prohibiting the National Government or a local government unit to purchase local produce in different political subdivisions, provided that the requirement herein set forth is complied with in the case of a local government unit.

Sec. 3. *Exceptions.* - Section 2 of this Act shall not be applicable in any of the following cases where the local produce is:

- a) No longer fit for human consumption;
- b) Insufficient in quantity;
- c) More costly and impracticable compared to imported or foreign sources of produce; and
- d) Inferior in quality.

Sec. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - For the effective implementation of this Act, the Department of the Interior and Local Government together with the Departments of Agriculture, Trade and Industry, Agrarian Reform and Health shall within ninety (90) days from the *effectivity* of this Act promulgate the implementing rules and regulations.

Sec. 5. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, and rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Sec. 6. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid and subsisting.

Sect. 7. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation or in the *Official Gazette*.

Approved,

