



SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

14 MAY -7 P1 :29

SENATE
S.B. No. 2215

RECEIVED BY: *je*

Introduced by: Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV

**AN ACT PROVIDING EMERGENCY WAREHOUSES IN AREAS DEVASTATED BY CALAMITIES
TO ENSURE AFFECTED CONSUMERS ACCESS TO BASIC NECESSITIES AND PRIME COMMODITIES
AT DISCOUNTED AND TAX FREE PRICES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the past few years, the country has been battered by more than twenty typhoons a year, with an increasing number in the super-typhoon category.

As super-typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) hit Eastern Visayas, particularly Leyte, last year, Filipinos who were seriously affected needed to contend with an insurmountable shortage of food, clean water, medicine and first aid, and clothing to weather the storm. Supplies weren't able to reach the survivors immediately due to wrecked ports, airports and roads.

Thus, it is important that every community in the country be equipped and prepared for disasters, and make relief and basic goods as accessible as possible. The first few days after storms or earthquakes hit are crucial in mitigating further tragedies to individuals and families.

Hence, the establishment of community disaster warehouses aims to extend assistance to survivors of calamities, natural or man-made, by ensuring access to basic goods and prime commodities.

It intends for goods sold in these warehouses to be tax-exempt, and ensure that goods in the market would be available to avoid hoarding in affected areas. Furthermore, it seeks to protect citizens from price manipulation during times of crisis.

This intervention is important for the days and weeks right after the calamity to enable people and communities to start rebuilding and normalizing their lives.

Equipping communities with proper mechanism to assist its people during adversity is empowering and inclusive towards a nation that works for all.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the "Community Disaster
2 Warehouse Bill."

3 **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
4 extend assistance to the victims of calamities and ensure their access to basic goods during
5 calamities or other emergency situations. Towards this end, the government shall establish
6 emergency warehouses in calamity areas wherein basic necessities and prime commodities will
7 be made available for sale to the victims at discounted and tax free prices as a priority initiative
8 to provide immediate support to the affected communities.

9 **SECTION 3. Definition of Terms.** –

10 a. "Emergency Warehouse" refers to any structure or vehicle with protected
11 enclosures for storage of large volume of goods and stocks and at the same time
12 serves as an outlet for selling such goods and stocks.

13 b. "Basic necessities" refer to goods vital to the needs of consumers for their
14 sustenance and existence in times of calamities or other emergency situations,
15 such as but not limited to, rice, corn, root crops, bread; fresh, dried or canned
16 fish and other marine products; fresh pork, beef and poultry meat; fresh eggs;
17 potable water in bottles and containers; fresh and processed milk; fresh
18 vegetables and fruits; locally manufactures instant noodles; coffee; sugar;
19 cooking oil; salt; laundry soap and detergents; firewood; charcoal; candles;
20 household liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and drugs classified as essential by the
21 Department of Health (DOH), and such other goods as may be included under
22 Section 4 of Republic Act No. 10623, otherwise known as An Act Amending
23 Certain Provisions of Republic Act No. 7581 entitled "An Act Providing Protection
24 to Consumers by Stabilizing the Prices of Basic Necessities and Prime
25 Commodities and by Prescribing Measures against Undue Price Increases during
26 Emergency Situations and like occasions and for other purposes";

27 c. "Prime commodities" refer to goods not considered as basic necessities but are
28 essential to consumers in times of calamities or other emergency situations, such

1 plywood; plyboard; construction nails; batteries; electrical supplies; light bulbs;
2 steel wire; and all drugs not classified as essential drugs by the DOH and such
3 other goods as may be included under Section 4 of Republic Act No. 10623.

4 **SECTION 4. *Emergency Warehouses.*** – In the event of calamities and disasters, the
5 Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) shall immediately set-up and deploy emergency
6 warehouses in calamity areas to sell basic necessities and prime commodities to affected
7 consumers at discounted and tax free prices. Affected consumers may avail of the discounted
8 and tax free prices subject to the limitations and conditions to be prescribed by the DTI.

9 **SECTION 4. *Duration.*** – The Department of Trade and Industry shall, in consultation with
10 the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), determine the
11 period of deployment of the emergency warehouse in a particular calamity area.

12 **SECTION 5. *Tax Exemption.*** – All goods to be sold in emergency warehouses shall be
13 exempt from the imposition of value-added tax and other sales tax.

14 **SECTION 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within ninety (90) days from the
15 effectively of this Act, the Secretary of Trade and Industry shall, in coordination with the
16 Secretary of Finance, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective
17 implementation of this Act.

18 **SECTION 7. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary for the effective implementation
19 of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations for the Department of Trade and
20 Industry. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be
21 included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

22 **SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulation or parts
23 thereof inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

24 **SECTION 9. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
25 in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

26 Approved,