

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

House Bill No. 3382



Introduced by Representatives ERIC G. YAP and PAOLO Z. DUTERTE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has altered every country's priority. Aside from the reinforcement to healthcare institutions, what was also given the most important consideration is the provision and distribution of relief to the affected communities. Even during this difficult time, our farmers came into the rescue - dropping their prices for consumers and sometimes even distributing their produce for free to families affected by the community quarantine.

To promote the agriculture sector and secure the livelihood of local farmers, the government must establish a system which supports the purchase and consumption of the produce of our own farmers. This bill seeks to mandate the national and local governments to purchase the produce of local farmers or producers for relief and school feeding programs.

It is only fitting to put our farmers first when attending to our countrymen's urgent need for subsistence, thereby putting our farmers as the first responders for food requirements. This bill does not aim to derail fair competition in terms foreign trade and importation but to support the produce of our own.

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

A black ink signature of the name "ERIC G. YAP".

PAOLO Z. DUTERTE

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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 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 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 Department 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. *Separability Clause.* Should any part of this Act be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions hereof that are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, and issuances, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 7. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper or general circulation.

Approved,