

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



HOUSE BILL NO. 6945

---

**Introduced by HON. GUS S. TAMBUNTING**

---

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

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Sec. 12, Art. XIII of the 1987 Constitution states that “The State shall establish and maintain an effective food and drug regulatory system and undertake appropriate health, manpower development, and research, responsive to the country's health needs and problems.”

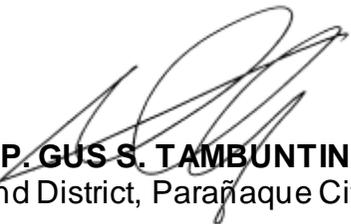
The Philippines, one of the world's largest importers of rice, buys three million tons of rice from overseas every year. According to the United Nations trade data, we imported \$451 million worth of sugar in 2021. And much of our garlic.<sup>1</sup>

Salt, a basic commodity, our country is forced to spend our precious dollars to import to supply 80-90% of our needs. The country imports at least 850,000 metric tons of salt from mainly Australia and China every year.

We cannot rely on food importation anymore to feed our countrymen. We must produce our own food in order to prevent famine.

This proposed measure aims to provide food security in the Philippines. The government must do its part in order to support our farmers and fishermen because they produce food for us.

On behalf of the people of Parañaque City's Second District, and for the common good of the Filipino people, the approval of the said measure is earnestly sought.

  
**REP. GUS S. TAMBUNTING**  
2nd District, Parañaque City

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://mb.com.ph/2023/01/10/salt-shortage-leads-to-importation/>

**Republic of the Philippines**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**Quezon City**  
**NINETEENTH CONGRESS**  
**First Regular Session**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 6945**

---

**Introduced by HON. GUS S. TAMBUNTING**

---

**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”.

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 especially during times of calamities and in all cases of emergencies.
3. Take the lead role 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 for 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 (chairperson)
- Secretary – Department of Trade and Industry
- Secretary – Department of Finance
- President – Land Bank of the Philippines
- Administrator – National Food Authority
- Representative – Farmers 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 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 seize whenever there are improper acquisitions (hoarding, cornering) of these key food products. Including all facilities and machinery 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 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,