

Republic of the Philippines  
**House of Representatives**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

House Resolution No. 612



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**INTRODUCED BY REP. PM VARGAS**

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**A RESOLUTION  
STRONGLY URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY TO  
STRICTLY MONITOR PRICES OF NOCHE BUENA GOODS AND APPEAL  
TO MANUFACTURERS AND SELLERS TO OBSERVE RECOMMENDED  
PRICE CEILINGS FOR BASIC COMMODITIES FOR THE BENEFIT OF  
THE FILIPINO PEOPLE DURING THE HOLIDAYS AMIDST THE COVID-19  
PANDEMIC**

**WHEREAS**, the government has always strongly implemented price freezes albeit temporarily and other price regulation measures in response to the country's state of calamity<sup>1</sup> to help alleviate the economic burden of the COVID-19 pandemic to the Filipino people;

**WHEREAS**, at the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020, citing the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act (Republic Act No. 10120) and the Price Act (Republic No. 7581, as amended), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Department of Agriculture (DA), and the Department of Health, have issued Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2020-01 entitled "Price Freeze under a State of Calamity throughout the Philippines due to the Coronavirus Disease 2019" as part of the government's COVID-19 remedial measures;

**WHEREAS**, two years have passed since the COVID-19 public health crisis began and the country is only beginning to slowly recover from its economic losses due to the pandemic as new fiscal and economic reforms and policies are being rolled out by the current administration;

**WHEREAS**, apart from the pandemic, the Filipino people also face the challenges of rising prices of basic goods brought about by inflation, with the Philippine Statistics Authority reporting that inflation rate is at its highest in the last 14 years at 7.7% this October;

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<sup>1</sup> Proclamation No. 929, s. 2020 and Proclamation No. 1218, s. 2021

**WHEREAS**, as the holiday season draws near, the DTI has reported on its Noche Buena Price Guide that 195 out of the 223 Noche Buena products have raised prices, with nearly half raising prices by more than 10%<sup>2</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, in September 2022, the DTI has requested manufacturers of Noche Buena products to implement a maximum of 10 percent price increase<sup>3</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, the DTI has conscientiously appealed to manufacturers of Noche Buena products to keep their price increases at a minimum to lessen the burden on consumers especially in anticipation of the holiday season<sup>4</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, historically, the holiday season is a time of merry-making and celebration for every Filipino family,

**WHEREAS**, as we expect the increase in demand for *noche buena* goods and basic necessities due to the holiday season, it is imperative that prices of such commodities are regulated under the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, to help Filipino consumers while also protecting the rights and income of manufacturers and sellers;

**WHEREAS**, amidst the aggravated challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, the government must ensure the just regulation of prices of goods to alleviate the burden of Filipinos especially during the holidays and in the spirit of *bayanihan* and *malasakit*;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**, to strongly urge the Department of Trade and Industry to strictly monitor prices of *noche buena* goods and appeal to manufacturers and sellers to observe recommended price ceilings for basic commodities for the benefit of the Filipino people during the holidays amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Adopted,**

  
**REP. PM VARGAS**  
Fifth District, Quezon City

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<sup>2</sup> <https://mb.com.ph/2022/11/23/195-noche-buena-items-hike-prices/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/09/24/2211795/dti-urges-noche-buena-product-makers-temper-prices>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/11/24/2225990/noche-buena-product-makers-urged-maintain-prices>