

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2556



INTRODUCED BY HONORABLE JANICE V. DEGAMO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Around one third of the food produced globally, equivalent to 1.3 billion tons or worth US\$1 trillion (around P46 trillion), is wasted annually according to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). There are both economic and environmental costs to this wastage. The forests and biodiversity cleared to create farmlands, along with the soils, energy, water, fertilizer, and labor utilized to produce food that is never eaten are also put to waste. A total of 28% of the global agricultural region is used to produce food that will eventually go to waste, according to the World Resources Institute. Furthermore, most of the greenhouse gas emissions are generated by food disposed of in landfills. With around 1 in 4 calories yielded remaining unconsumed, and a population of around 870 million without equitable access to food resources daily, this absurd disjuncture deems moral implications to this profound amount of discarded food.

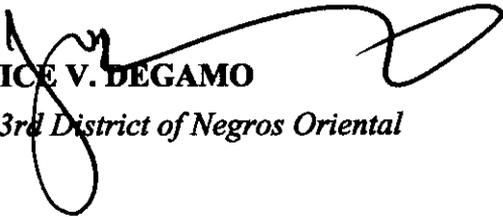
The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) defines food loss as the decrease in the amount or nutritional quality of food that was intended for human consumption. FAO says that more than 40% of food loss in developing countries such as the Philippines happens before consumption—during production, postharvest, and processing. The International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) reports that rice losses reach around 15% in the postharvest stage. In addition, an estimated 296,869 metric tons of rice, equivalent to P7.3 billion, is wasted in the country according to the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PRRI). The discarded amount could have fed more than 2 million Filipinos.

The food waste reduction hierarchy set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) shows, through an inverted triangular diagram, the most preferred to the least preferred actions that can be done with food waste. Topmost is source reduction, followed by donation to the hungry, diversion to animal feed, recovering energy, creating compost, and at the bottom is disposal of food in landfills.

As a member-state to the United Nations and a country bound to the Sustainable Development Goals that forward human rights and social justice, it is highly essential for the Government to facilitate in redirecting surplus to those who do not have food on their plates.

There is more than enough food in the world for everyone. By getting food-related businesses to donate their surplus food to food distribution charities, thus providing food security to those without access to their next meal, this bill seeks to ultimately end the cycle of having food end up in the trash instead of stomachs. The bill also demands the involvement of private individuals and their local governments in efficiently arriving at a segregation campaign to have household food waste readily available for recycling into fertilizer or compost and for diversion into food scrap to animal food. Finally, the provision of this bill on the National Zero Food Waste Campaign addresses the proper information dissemination on the ways by which Filipinos can follow the food waste reduction hierarchy.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is urgently sought.



JANICE V. DEGAMO

Representative, 3rd District of Negros Oriental

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2556

Introduced by **HONORABLE JANICE V. DEGAMO**

**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A SYSTEM OF REDISTRIBUTING AND
RECYCLING FOOD WASTE TO PROMOTE FOOD SECURITY**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* — This Act shall be known as the “*Zero Food Waste Act.*”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — The State recognizes that each person has a right to an adequate standard of living, including the right to sufficient food. It is hereby declared a policy of the State to safeguard food security, end hunger, and promote the efficient use of the country’s food resources.

Towards this end, the State shall adopt a system to promote, facilitate, and ensure the reduction of food waste through redistribution and recycling. The massive amount of food wasted and the considerable number of people going hungry daily is a breach that this Act intends to correct.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* — As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

(a) *Food insecure* – persons or groups of persons who have difficulty producing or purchasing food to avoid hunger.

(b) *Food loss* – food discarded in the production, manufacture, retail, and consumption stages, determined to be fit for consumption based on standards set by the National Nutrition Council.

(c) *Food waste reduction* – the decrease of food waste generation, the redistribution of food loss to the food insecure or the recycling of food waste as fertilizer or compost.

(d) *Food-related businesses* – public and private businesses involved in the manufacturing and processing of food products (i.e. food manufacturers), private businesses involved in the wholesaling and retailing of food products (i.e. supermarkets), and private businesses involved in serving food products (i.e. restaurants, cafeterias, and hotels).

(e) *Food distributing institutions* – non-profit, charitable, or other social mission-driven organizations that distribute food to the food insecure.

(f) *Food waste* – food discarded in the retail and consumption stages, determined to be unfit for consumption based on standards set by the National Nutrition Council.

(g) *Waste management and recycling enterprises* – organizations that manage food waste by converting these into fertilizers or compost.

(h) *Food waste Reduction Hierarchy* – levels of actions an organization can take to prevent and divert food waste. This includes *Source Reduction, Feed Hungry People, Feed Animals, Industrial Uses, Composting, Landfill/Incineration*. Each tier focuses on different management strategies for wasted food, having the top levels as the most beneficial for the environment, society and the economy.

(h.1) Source Reduction – Reducing the volume of surplus food generated

(h.2) Feed Hungry People – Donating extra food to food banks, soup kitchens, and shelters

(h.3) Feed Animals – Diverting food scraps to animal food

(h.4) Industrial Uses – Providing waste oils for rendering and fuel conversion and food scraps for digestion (anaerobic digestion) to recover energy.

(h.5) Composting – Creating a nutrient-rich soil amendment

(h.6) Landfill/Incineration – Last resort to disposal

SEC. 4. National Zero Food Waste Campaign. — The National Nutrition Council (NNC), in close coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of Education (DepEd), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Department of Health (DOH), Department of Agriculture (DA), and Department of Energy (DOE), other concerned agencies and Local Government Units (LGUs), is hereby tasked to undertake a National Zero Food Waste Campaign to raise awareness about the consequences of wasted food, the Zero Food Waste Act, and the food waste reduction efforts required of food-related businesses and households through the LGUs. The Campaign shall also promote the food waste reduction hierarchy, and recommend means of reducing individual food waste.

DepEd shall have the duty to ensure that the education curriculum includes materials on the current global and national food waste situation, on ways to reduce food waste, on national and local food waste prevention programs, and regarding the provisions of this Act. DTI shall encourage food-related businesses to purchase lower-price, non-standard size or shape produce to be used in their food products.

SEC. 5. *Food-related Business Waste Reduction Strategy.* — Food-related businesses such as food manufacturers, supermarkets, restaurants, cafeterias, and hotels are hereby required to:

- (a) Submit an initial report to the DSWD and DENR that contains data on the amount (in tons) of its food loss and food waste in the past years and immediately preceding year, organized according to the manner of disposal, including donation, composting, or discarding.
- (b) Submit an annual report to the DA that contains data on the amount (in tons) of its food loss and food waste in the past years and immediately preceding year, organized according to the manner of disposal, including donation, composting, or discarding.
- (c) Submit an annual report to the DOE that contains data on the amount (in tons) of its food loss and food waste in the past years and immediately precedent year, organized according to the manner of disposal, including donation, composting, or discarding, in order for the Department to see which food waste can be used as waste oils.
- (d) Enter into a contract with food distributing institutions to redistribute food loss to the food insecure.
- (e) Ensure that food loss is unadulterated and in good condition upon arrival at the food distributing institution's distribution center.
- (f) Enter into contract with animal industries and farms to divert food scraps to animal food.
- (g) Enter into a contract with waste management and recycling enterprises to recycle food waste into fertilizer or compost.
- (h) Strictly implement a policy, especially in food buffets and restaurants, to prohibit leftover food including side dishes.
- (i) Reach and maintain food waste levels at the target set by the DENR.

SEC. 6. *National Zero Food Waste Scheme.* — DSWD, as the coordinating agency between the food businesses and food distributing institutions, shall:

- (a) Provide guidelines and standards for the collection, storage, and distribution of food loss donated to food distributing institutions.

- (b) Ensure that food businesses have entered into contracts with food distributing institutions and issue acceptance certificates to food businesses.
- (c) Promote linkages between food distributing institutions and LGUs to create a community-based food distribution system for the food insecure.
- (d) Provide guidelines in targeting beneficiaries for distributed food.
- (e) Create a Self-Sufficiency Program that will provide the food insecure with skills training on managing food distributing institutions and livelihood programs to avoid the dependence on donation solely.

SEC. 7. Household and Local Government Waste Reduction Strategy. — LGUs are hereby required to:

- (a) Submit an initial report that contains data on the amount (in tons) of food waste that can be recycled as raw material for fertilizers or compost to DENR.
- (b) Submit an annual report that contains data on the amount (in tons) of food waste that has been recycled as raw material for fertilizers or compost to the DENR.
- (c) Submit an initial report that contains data on the amount (in tons) of food waste that can be recycled as raw material for waste oils to the DOE.
- (d) Submit an annual report that contains data on the amount (in tons) of food waste that has been recycled as raw material for waste oils to the DOE.
- (e) Submit an initial report that contains data on the amount (in tons) of food waste that can be diverted from food scrap to animal food to the DA.
- (f) Submit an annual report that contains data on the amount (in tons) of food waste that has been diverted from food scrap to animal food to the DA.
- (g) Initiate waste segregation efforts per household through local campaigns.
- (h) Enter into a contract with waste management and recycling enterprises to recycle food waste from households into fertilizer or compost.
- (i) Shoulder the costs of transporting food waste from collection areas to waste management sites.
- (j) Reach and maintain food waste levels at the target set by DENR.
- (k) Direct the compost to farmers and other food producers.

SEC. 8. Oversight Functions of DTI and/or SEC – The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and/or Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) shall have the function of ensuring that food-related businesses submit the necessary reports and enter

into contracts with industries mentioned in Section 6 herein. Failure to comply within the deadline set by DSWD, DENR, and other respective agencies will subject the food-related business to sanctions provided for by DTI and/or SEC.

SEC. 9. *Education.* – The Department of Education (DepEd) and Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall include in its curriculum and culture, appropriate information and ways on how students of different levels may be able to help in food waste management especially in school setting.

SEC. 10. *Mobile Application.* – Department of Information Communication and Technology in coordination with private industries and other relevant government agencies, shall establish a Philippine-based mobile application (app) that will help connect households and local businesses to share food surplus with each other and such other features that will ensure an end to food waste.

SEC. 11. *Tax Exemption.* — Food-related businesses shall be exempt from donor's tax arising from the donation of food loss to food distributing institutions.

SEC. 12. *Incentives.* – DILG shall include Household and Local Government Waste Reduction Strategy as a criteria under the Environmental Protection aspect of the Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG) award.

SEC. 13. *Penal Provisions/Penalties.* — The penalty of *prision correccional* will be imposed on any individual, private or public, who deliberately makes food loss unfit for consumption. The same penalty is applicable to private or public actors who prevent the redirection of food loss to food distributing institutions or food waste to waste management and recycling enterprises.

SEC 14. *Information Dissemination.* – The Philippine Information Agency, in coordination with the DepEd, DOLE and the DILG, shall ensure proper and adequate information dissemination of the contents and benefits of this Act to pertinent entities in all provinces, cities, municipalities and barangays.

SEC. 15. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the National Nutrition Council, in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Department of Education (DepEd), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Department of Health (DOH), and other relevant government agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 16. *Periodic Review.* — The implementing agencies shall submit an annual report to Congress on the progress in the implementation of this Act.

SEC. 17. *Appropriations.* — The funds needed to implement this Act shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 18. *Separability Clause.* — Should any provision herein be declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of the other provisions of this Act.

SEC. 19. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or other issuances or parts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 20. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,