



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 4801

BY REPRESENTATIVES ROMULO, EJERCITO, DE JESUS, ILAGAN, CASIÑO, COLMENARES, MARIANO, PALATINO, TINIO, GARCIA (A.), APACIBLE, DUAVIT, BIRON, DEFENSOR, ALVAREZ (A.), TREÑAS, VILLARICA, MANDANAS, FERNANDEZ, GARAY, TEODORO, DEL ROSARIO (A.G.), SACDALAN, OSMEÑA, JOSON, RODRIGUEZ (I.), LACSON-NOEL, YU, FERRER (J.), SAHIDULLA, LAGDAMEO (A.), BONOAN-DAVID, MELLANA, SAKALURAN, QUISUMBING, UNABIA, SINGSON (R.), BATOCABE, HARESCO, VILLAR, PANCHO, ENVERGA, COJUANGCO (E.), CAJAYON, RODRIGUEZ (R.), TUGNA, TY, ROMUALDEZ, ARROYO (D.), GONZALES (A.), PANOTES, BAGASINA, ROMUALDO AND CAGAS, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1178

AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7581, ENTITLED "AN ACT PROVIDING PROTECTION TO CONSUMERS BY STABILIZING THE PRICES OF BASIC NECESSITIES AND PRIME COMMODITIES AND BY PRESCRIBING MEASURES AGAINST UNDUE PRICE INCREASES DURING EMERGENCY SITUATIONS AND LIKE OCCASIONS" AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 3(1) of Republic Act No. 7581, otherwise known
2 as the "Price Act", is hereby amended to read as follows:

1 “SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* -- For purposes of this Act,
2 the term:

3 “(1) ‘Basic necessities’ [includes:] **ARE GOODS VITAL TO**
4 **THE NEEDS OF CONSUMERS FOR THEIR SUSTENANCE AND**
5 **EXISTENCE IN TIMES OF ANY OF THE CASES PROVIDED UNDER**
6 **SECTION 6 OR 7 OF THIS ACT SUCH AS, BUT NOT LIMITED TO,**
7 rice, corn, **ROOT CROPS**, bread; fresh, dried [and] **OR** canned fish
8 and other marine products[.]; fresh pork, beef and poultry meat;
9 fresh eggs; **POTABLE WATER IN CONTAINERS**; fresh and processed
10 milk; fresh vegetables **AND FRUITS**; [root crops;] **NOODLES**;
11 coffee; sugar; cooking oil; salt; laundry soap[;] **AND** detergents;
12 firewood; charcoal; **HOUSEHOLD LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS**
13 **(LPG) AND KEROSENE**; candles; [and] drugs classified as essential
14 by the Department of Health **AND SUCH OTHER GOODS AS MAY BE**
15 **INCLUDED UNDER SECTION 4 OF THIS ACT;”**

16 SEC. 2. Section 3(8) of Republic Act No. 7581 is hereby amended to
17 read as follows:

18 “SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* --

19 “x x x

20 “(8) ‘Prime Commodities’ [include] **ARE GOODS NOT**
21 **CONSIDERED AS BASIC NECESSITIES BUT ARE ESSENTIAL TO**
22 **CONSUMERS IN TIMES OF ANY OF THE CASES PROVIDED UNDER**
23 **SECTION 7 OF THIS ACT SUCH AS, BUT NOT LIMITED TO,**
24 [fresh fruits;] flour; dried, processed [and] **OR** canned pork[;], beef
25 and poultry meat; dairy products not falling under basic
26 necessities[, noodles;] onions[;], garlic[;], vinegar[;], patis[;],
27 soy sauce; toilet soap; fertilizer[;], pesticides[;] **AND** herbicides;

1 poultry[;], [swine and cattle] LIVESTOCK AND FISHERY feeds[;]
2 AND veterinary products [for poultry, swine and cattle]; paper;
3 school supplies; *nipa* shingles; *sawali*; cement; clinker; GI sheets;
4 hollow blocks; plywood; plyboard; construction nails; batteries;
5 electrical supplies; light bulbs; steel wire; [and] all drugs not
6 classified as essential drugs by the Department of Health AND SUCH
7 OTHER GOODS AS MAY BE INCLUDED UNDER SECTION 4 OF THIS
8 ACT.”

9 SEC. 3. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 7581 is hereby amended to read
10 as follows:

11 “SEC. 4. *INCLUSION OR Exclusion from the Coverage*
12 *of this Act.* -- Upon petition of the concerned parties OR
13 *MOTU PROPRIO* ACTION FROM THE CONCERNED AGENCY OF THE
14 PRICE COORDINATING COUNCIL and after public hearing, the
15 implementing agency, with the approval of the President, MAY
16 INCLUDE IN THE DEFINITION OF BASIC NECESSITIES OR PRIME
17 COMMODITIES TYPES AND BRANDS OF THE GOODS OR may
18 exclude from the coverage of this Act, types or brands of the goods
19 included in the definition of basic necessities and prime
20 commodities, which may be deemed as nonessential goods or
21 luxury goods: *Provided*, That, any type or brand so excluded may
22 be reinstated by the implementing agency during occasions of acute
23 shortage in the supply of the basic necessity or prime commodity to
24 which the excluded type or brand used to belong.”

1 SEC 4. Section 6 of Republic Act No. 7581 is hereby amended to read
2 as follows:

3 “SEC. 6. *Automatic Price Control.* –

4 “X X X

5 “Unless sooner lifted by the President, price control of basic
6 necessities under this section shall remain effective for the duration
7 of the condition that brought it about, but not for more than
8 sixty (60) days[.]: **PROVIDED, THAT, IN THE CASE OF BASIC**
9 **NECESSITIES THAT ARE WHOLLY IMPORTED AND DEREGULATED**
10 **UNDER EXISTING LAWS SUCH AS, BUT NOT LIMITED TO,**
11 **HOUSEHOLD LPG AND KEROSENE, PRICE CONTROL THEREON**
12 **SHALL REMAIN EFFECTIVE FOR A PERIOD OF NOT MORE THAN**
13 **FIFTEEN (15) DAYS, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE CURRENT**
14 **INVENTORY OR SUPPLY LEVELS THEREOF.”**

15 SEC. 5. Section 11 of Republic Act No. 7581 is hereby amended to
16 read as follows:

17 “SEC. 11. *Price Coordinating Council.* – There is hereby
18 created a Price Coordinating Council, hereinafter referred to as the
19 Council, to be composed of the following members:

20 “(1) The Secretary of Trade and Industry, as chairman;

21 “(2) The Secretary of Agriculture;

22 “(3) The Secretary of Health;

23 “(4) The Secretary of Environment and Natural
24 Resources;

25 “(5) The Secretary of Local Government;

26 “(6) The Secretary of Transportation and
27 Communications;

28 “(7) The Secretary of Justice;

1 “(8) THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY;

2 “(9)[(8)] The Director General of the National Economic
3 and Development Authority;

4 “(10)[(9)] One (1) representative from the consumers’
5 sector;

6 “(11)[(10)] One (1) representative from the agricultural
7 producers’ sector;

8 “(12)[(11)] One (1) representative from the trading sector;
9 and

10 “(13)[(12)] One (1) representative from the manufacturers’
11 sector.

12 “x x x.”

13 SEC. 6. Section 12(2) of Republic Act No. 7581 is hereby amended to
14 read as follows:

15 “SEC. 12. *Functions of the Price Coordinating Council.* –

16 “x x x

17 “(2) It shall report **AT LEAST SEMI-ANNUALLY** to the
18 President and to the Congress of the Philippines the status and
19 progress of the programs, projects, and measures undertaken by
20 each implementing department, agency or office as well as the
21 comprehensive strategies developed by the Council to stabilize the
22 prices of basic necessities and prime commodities[;]. **THE**
23 **REPORT SHALL INCLUDE GOODS THAT HAVE BEEN INCLUDED OR**
24 **EXCLUDED FROM THE LIST OF BASIC NECESSITIES AND PRIME**
25 **COMMODITIES AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER SECTION 4 OF THIS**
26 **ACT;**

27 “x x x.”

1* SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Department of
2 Trade and Industry shall, in consultation with the members of the Price
3 Coordinating Council and stakeholders, promulgate the necessary rules,
4 regulations and procedures for the effective implementation of this Act within
5 ninety (90) days upon its effectivity and shall monitor strict compliance
6 therewith. They shall also review the existing implementing rules and
7 regulations of Republic Act No. 7581 and revise its provisions as may be
8 appropriate.

9 SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders,
10 issuances or regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
11 revised or amended accordingly.

12 SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any part of this Act is declared
13 unconstitutional or invalid, such parts or provisions hereof not so declared
14 shall remain valid and subsisting.

15 SEC. 10. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)
16 days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation
17 in the country.

Approved,