

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



'13 OCT 16 P5:34

SENATE
SENATE BILL NO. 1863

RECEIVED BY. *ji*

Introduced by Senator Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Rice is the staple food of the Filipinos. However, data from the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI) show that each Filipino wastes an average of three (3) tablespoons or nine (9) grams of rice daily, which is equivalent to 3.3 kilos per year. According to the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), with "94 million and 9 grams of wasted rice per day, the total wastage is 308,000 tons, 36 percent of 2011 rice imports. The said rice wastage translates to at least US\$535,000 (23 million pesos) every day or \$223 million a year, an amount sufficient to feed 4.3 million people.

The Philippines is an agricultural country. Ironically, the country is also the world's biggest importer of rice for several years. To date, the government is implementing various programs to attain rice self-sufficiency which remains an elusive goal. Under Proclamation No. 494, series of 2012 which declared the year 2013 as the national year of rice, it was explained that "a sustained and nationwide campaign to boost farmers' morale and motivate them to adopt technologies to further improve farm productivity and encourage the general public to be responsible rice consumers are necessary to complement the government's efforts to achieve rice self-sufficiency."

This bill seeks to penalize the practice of some restaurants, hotels, inns, canteens, steakhouses, eateries and the like of refusing to serve order of rice from a customer if it be less than one (1) cup. This measure will considerably reduce rice wastage on these business establishments by letting their customers to order just the right amount of rice that they can consume.

Thus, the early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.

Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr.
FERDINAND R. MARCOS, JR.

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Senate
Office of the Secretary

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AN ACT PENALIZING THE PRACTICE OF RESTAURANTS, HOTELS, INNS, CANTEENS, STEAKHOUSES, EATERIES AND THE LIKE FROM REFUSING TO SERVE ORDER OF RICE FROM A CUSTOMER IF IT BE LESS THAN ONE(1) CUP, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representative of the Philippines in congress assembled:

SECTION 1.- Short Title- This Act shall be known as the "**Anti-Rice Wastage Act of 2013.**"

SECTION 2.- Punishable Act.- It is hereby declared unlawful for restaurants, hotels, inns, canteens, steakhouses, eateries and the like to refuse to serve order of rice from a customer if it be less than one (1) cup.

SECTION 3.- Penalties.- Any business establishment who is found violating this Act shall be meted a fine in the amount of Twenty Thousand Pesos (Php20,000.00) for the first offense; Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php50,000.00) for the Second Offense; and One Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php100,000.00) for the Third and so-forth Offense.

SECTION 4.- Rules and Regulations. – The Department of Agriculture shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act.

SECTION 5.- Repealing Clause. – All laws, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6.- Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,