

[PROCLAMATION NO. 403, April 03, 1957]

**PROCLAIMING THE EXISTENCE OF A STATE OF PUBLIC
CALAMITY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CATBALOGAN, PROVINCE
OF SAMAR**

WHEREAS, a conflagration of great magnitude which occurred on April 1, 1957, in the municipality of Catbalogan, capital of the province of Samar, razed to the ground most of the houses in said municipality, bringing about ruin, desolation, and misery among the inhabitants of said municipality;

WHEREAS, the above-mentioned calamity has wrought havoc and sufferings among the inhabitants of the municipality of Catbalogan by reason of the destruction and consequent scarcity of articles of prime necessities of life and the excessive increase in their prices due to profiteering and hoarding by those who control the supply of said articles; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that immediate steps be taken to cope effectively with the emergency so as to avert panic and disorder among the inhabitants of the municipality of Catbalogan;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Carlos P. Garcia, President of the Philippines, pursuant to the authority vested in me by Act No. 4164 of the Philippine Legislature, entitled "An. Act to prevent the excessive increase in the price of certain prime necessities of life on the occasion of a public calamity, penalizing the violation thereof, and for other purposes," do hereby proclaim and certify that a state of public calamity exists in the municipality of Catbalogan, Samar, and during the existence of such calamity, it. shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation in the aforesaid locality, (1) to sell or offer for sale palay, rice, corn, cloth, milk, canned goods, sugar, and other foodstuffs, building and construction materials, at prices higher by twenty-five per cent or more over and above the average current local price of such commodities one month previous to the occurrence of such public calamity as may be determined by the Director of Commerce; and (2) to aggravate the crisis by refusing for the purpose of profiteering to sell at the legal price or by bidding, concealing, or hoarding the goods or commodities for the same purpose.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Republic of the Philippines to be affixed.

Done in the City of Manila, this 3rd day of April, in the year of Our Lord, nineteen hundred and fifty-seven, and of the Independence of the Philippines, the eleventh.

CARLOS P. GARCIA
President of the Philippines

By the President: