

[PROCLAMATION NO. 61, September 03, 1954]

PROCLAIMING THE EXISTENCE OF PUBLIC CALAMITY IN THE PROVINCE OF OCCIDENTAL NEGROS AND THE CITY OF BACOLOD AND DECLARING IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT THEREIN THE PROVISIONS OF ACT NO. 4164

WHEREAS, it has been found that there is a widespread scarcity of the supply of rice and palay in the Province of Occidental Negros and the City of Bacolod caused by a long nationwide draught which prevented the farmers in the rice-producing regions of the Philippines to plant the rice-fields in due time;

WHEREAS, this scarcity has brought about an increase in the price of rice and palay and has rendered more difficult the means of livelihood of the people of said province and city;

WHEREAS, the resulting crisis has been aggravated by the hiding, concealing and hoarding of rice and palay by some owners and dealers of said commodities for purposes of profiteering; and

WHEREAS, such a state of things has caused deep concern and fear among the people of said province and city and unless effective measures are immediately taken to cope with the emergency, panic and disorder therein will certainly ensue;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ramon Magsaysay, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers conferred upon me by Act No. 4164 of the former Philippine Legislature, entitled "An Act to prevent the excessive increase in the prices of certain prime necessities of life on the occasion of a public calamity, penalizing the violation thereof, and for other purposes," do hereby certify and declare that a public calamity resulting from drought and scarcity of rice and palay exists in the Province of Occidental Negros and City of Bacolod and declare in full force and effect therein the provisions of said Act No. 4164.

The public order in the province and city above-named so requiring, I hereby order the Commander of the Philippine Constabulary of Occidental Negros, or his duly authorized representative, to seize any stock of rice or palay that is hidden, concealed, or hoarded for purposes of profiteering by any owner or dealer thereof when such a stock is in excess of one hundred cavanos.

The stock of rice and palay so seized shall be delivered to the representative of the Price Stabilization Corporation (PRISCO) in Bacolod City to be sold and disposed of to the public in accordance with law and the proceeds of the sale at legal price shall be reimbursed to the respective owners thereof.

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