

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

13th Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 792

Introduced by Representative Abayon

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Statistics disclose that about 72 percent of Filipino households to not meet their daily energy requirements simply because they are poor and cannot afford nutritious food. The Food and Nutrition Research Institute's study conducted in 1990 showed that 13.9 percent of our pre-school children were affected by protein-energy malnutrition. The same study also showed that 7.6 percent and 1.4 percent of the Filipino children suffered from acute malnutrition and severe chronic malnutrition respectively.

Undernourishment or malnutrition in the Philippines has always been a great problem. The malnutrition problem is a manifestation of widespread poverty in the country. Thus, it is prevalent in depressed barangays and municipalities in the rural areas and the countryside.

Malnutrition hampers the growth of a child and later affects his education, productivity and employability. The problem of malnutrition, therefore, calls for a more lasting solution. It calls for an integrated development approach that complements traditional nutrition intervention. The Barangay Integrated Development approach for Nutrition Improvement (BIDANI) is one such approach.

BIDANI is an active research program spearheaded by state colleges and universities as a regular program that addresses the nutritional and general well-being of the poor.

The attached bill seeks to institutionalize the BIDANI network program. Once approved, the national government is assured of a partner in providing proper nutrition to the people, particularly to the poor. Likewise, it shall ensure the promotion of a healthy and productive citizenry.

In view of the importance of the measure, approval of the attached bill is earnestly urged.

HARLIN CAST. ABAYON

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HOUSE BILL NO. 792

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AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE BARANGAY INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT APPROACH FOR NUTRITION IMPROVEMENT (BIDANI OF THE RURAL POOR AS A NETWORK PROGRAM OF THE PARTICIPATING STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "BIDANI Act of 2001."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy - It is hereby declared the policy of the state to recognize nutrition as a basic human right, just as the right to health and to life are. Towards this end, the state shall promote vigorously the importance of nutrition as a public good and public concern which can be achieved only through multi-sectoral efforts and democratic process. It shall work towards the provision of the nutritional needs of sector of Filipino society who are deprived of the said right. Moreover, the state shall give utmost support to programs and projects that are responsive to the nutritional needs of the people.

SECTION 3. Objectives. - This Act shall have the following objectives:

(a). To encourage cooperation and participation of academic institutions and local governments in promoting the nutritional well-being of the country;

(b). To evolve among state colleges and universities an effective action- research network program that will improve the nutrition and general well-being of the rural poor, thereby assisting in the development of local communities; and

(c). To enhance the productivity and employability of the rural poor by improving their nutritional and life status.

SECTION 4. Definition of Terms. - As used in this Act, the terms:

(a). Barangay Integrated Development Approach for Nutrition Improvement (BIDANI) - refers to a nutrition-in-development action research program which aims to assist the national government in improving the nutrition and general well-being of the rural poor; and

(b). Participating State Colleges and Universities - refer to state colleges and universities adopting and implementing the BIDANI network program as a regular nutrition program.

SECTION 5. Establishment of the Barangay Integrated Development Approach for Nutrition Improvement - The Barangay Integrated Development Approach for Nutrition Improvement (BIDANI) is hereby established as a nutrition program in participating state colleges and universities in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 6. Promulgation of Rules and Regulations - The National Nutrition Council, in coordination with the participating state colleges and universities, shall prepare and issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 7. Funding and Appropriations - The amount necessary for the implementation of the BIDANI network program is hereby appropriated and included in the budget of participating state colleges and universities in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Participating state colleges and universities may also get funds from donations and other forms of financial support from foreign and local persons, institutions, and governments for the implementation of the BIDANI network program. Donations from local donors shall be deductible from their taxable income.

SECTION 8. Separability Clause - If any provision of this Act is declared void or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. Repealing Clause - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SECTION 10. Effectivity Clause - This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,