HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
RECEIVED
01 JUL 2004
BY:
BILLS AND INDEX

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

13th CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 985

Introduced by HON. JUAN ROMEO NEREUS O. ACOSTA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The malnutrition level among our child population remains serious. There are now close to 3.67 million malnourished children nationwide. This is about one-fourth of all school children. If nothing is done, this figure will worsen. To further illustrate, 5 out 10 Filipino children are suffering from varying degrees of malnutrition based on the nutrition survey of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS).

Milk has been identified as a complete and nutritious food. It supplies more of the essential nutrients in significant amount than any other single food. Milk and milk products can play a vital role in providing the basic nutrition the Filipino citizenry needs, especially its growing child population.

One of the thrust s of the current administration is the improvement of the nutritional status of children through the School Milk Feeding Program. This is being done by the National Dairy Authority (NDA) and co-implemented by the Department of Agriculture, Education, Health and Social Welfare, along with the support of concerned local government units and noble individuals in areas where modest local dairy operations are ongoing. However, the program's reach is minimal. The NDA reported that barely 1.5% of the 3.7 million malnourished children nationwide, or some 50,000 children have been benefited since 1995.

This bill seeks to establish a milk feeding program for children 5-10 years old, to be sourced from locally produced milk. The funding for the program will come from tariff collections from the importation of milk and other dairy products as well as of dairy equipment and implements, and if insufficient, from the President's Social Fund. As an incentive to the supporters of the program, they will be given a tax credit equivalent to 100% of their contribution. Seventy percent (70%) of the fund shall be used for the milkfeeding program and thirty percent (30%) shall be used for other dairy and dairy-related activities.

This bill will realize our hope for a better, healthier and more productive population who will ultimately contribute to the development of our rural communities. Our dairy farmers will also benefit from the resulting expanded market base and greater funding assistance for the dairy industry.

In view of the above, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

CONG. J.R.NEREUS O. ACOSTA, *Ph.D.*

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon Cit y

13th CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 985

Introduced by HON. J.R. NEREUS O. ACOSTA

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE NATIONAL MILK FEEDING PROGRAM AND PROVIDING FOR A MILKFEEDING FUND THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Title of the Act. – This Act shall be known as the MILKFEEDING ACT OF 2004.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – The State shall ensure the health and welfare of the vulnerable children population and shall institute effective mechanisms to carry out this policy. The State shall ensure the supply of regular food supplement for children in order to create a future generation of physically and mentally developed youth.

SECTION 3. Milk Feeding defined – Milk feeding, as used in this Act, shall cover distribution of locally produced milk from cows, carabaos and goats for direct intake of children aged 5-10 years old nationwide. The milk shall come from the produce of local dairy producers and processors at a price and quality acceptable to both the local milk suppliers and milk feeding sponsors, private or government. No milk intended for milk feeding shall be used for commercial sale.

SECTION 4. Priority Coverage. – Priority shall be given to children who are in the barangay day care centers, pre-schools and schools located in the rural areas of the country and where prevalence of malnutrition is high. Second priorities are nursing mothers, pregnant women and elderly persons who also reside in rural communities.

SECTION 5. Milk Feeding Fund. – There is hereby allocated an initial amount of THREE HUNDRED MILLION PESOS (P300M) out of the 1999 tax collection of the National Government from the importation of milk and dairy products as well as dairy equipment and implements in order to enhance and augment the existing funds for the National Milk Feeding Program of the National Dairy Authority. Said allocation shall constitute the seed money for the Milk Fund. Annually, thereafter, the Milk Feeding Fund shall be augmented by seventy-five percent (75%) of the annual tax collection of the National Government from the importation of milk and dairy products as well as dairy equipment and implements; Seventy percent (70%) of which shall be used for the National Feeding Program and the balance of thirty percent (30%) shall be used for other dairy and dairy-related activities.

SECTION 6. Funding Alternatives. – In the event that the milk import tariff fund allocation is insufficient, alternative funding shall be automatically sourced from the President's Social Fund, equivalent to at least 10% thereof.

SECTION 7. Allocation of Funding. – The Departments of Budget and Management and of Finance are hereby directed to set aside the amounts from the taxes collected on the importation of milk and dairy products as well as dairy equipment and implements, and/or secure the 10% automatic allocation from the President's Social Fund.

SECTION 8. Implementing Authority. – The National Dairy Authority, consistent with its mandate under Republic Act No. 7884, is hereby authorized to utilize the afore-said funds for the National Milk Feeding Program and other dairy and dairy-related development activities. The NDA shall tap bonafide and reputable women's organizations as milk feeding partners as well as other government agencies, people's organizations and non-government organizations (NGOs) with a social reform, pro-poor and pro-poor and pro-child agenda.

SECTION 9. Milk Feeding Incentives. – Any private entity or benefactor, local or foreign, who supports the Milk Feeding Program in whatever form, shall be given due tax credit equivalent to 100% of the value of their contribution to the program.

SECTION 10. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations and other issuances, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 11. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved.