

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H.B. No. 2889

Introduced by Congressman Angelo Palmones

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Presidential Decree No. 1569 was issued in 1978 to address the prevailing conditions of malnutrition in the country. It aimed to tackle malnutrition concerns, specifically in the grassroots level, by initiating a project that will provide a nutrition worker for every barangay.

Though said law considerably contributed to the significant reduction of malnutrition in the country, at present the number of malnourished children is still at an alarming level. It is therefore necessary to examine the implementation of the above mandate for the country to have a well-nourished population — one that would contribute to the national economic welfare.

In recognition of the above, this bill seeks to create a mandatory position of Barangay Nutrition Worker in every barangay. A salient feature of the bill is the enumerated qualifications of said nutrition workers, requiring them to be at least a high school graduate.

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


ANGELO PALMONES
Representative, PL-AGHAM

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**STRENGTHENING THE BARANGAY NUTRITION SCHOLAR PROGRAM (BNSP),
PROVIDING INCENTIVES THERETO, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1569**

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

SECTION 1. Presidential Decree No. 1569 entitled "Strengthening the Barangay Nutrition Program by providing for a Nutrition Scholar in Every Barangay" is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 1. BARANGAY NUTRITION PROGRAM. To strengthen the Barangay Nutrition Program, there shall be CREATED under the administration and SUPERVISION of the NATIONAL NUTRITION COUNCIL IN COORDINATION WITH THE CITY or MUNICIPALITY and the BARANGAY, ONE (1) MANDATORY POSITION OF BARANGAY NUTRITION SCHOLAR OR WORKER IN EVERY BARANGAY WITH A MONTHLY ALLOWANCE OF NOT LESS THAN FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000.00).

SECTION 2. BARANGAY NUTRITION WORKER. The Barangay Nutrition Worker shall be APPOINTED BY THE MAYOR WITH THE CONCURRENCE OF THE MAJORITY OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN OR THE SANGGUNIANG Panlungsod, THE SANGGUNIANG BARANGAY CONCERNED, AND THE LOCAL NUTRITION COMMITTEES DECIDED IN AN ASSEMBLY.. The

barangay nutrition worker shall be responsible for delivering nutrition services and other related activities such as community health, backyard food production, environmental sanitation, culture, supplemental feeding and family planning to the barangay.

SECTION 3. SERVICES. The barangay nutrition worker, while working continuously learn under this program, shall serve the barangay on a voluntary basis for at least [a period of one year] SIX MONTHS. THEREAFTER, THE LOCAL NUTRITION COMMITTEES, IN COORDINATION WITH THE DISTRICT/CITY NUTRITION PROGRAM COORDINATOR SHALL ASSESS HIS/HER PERFORMANCE AND MAKE THE NECESSARY RECOMMENDATION FOR HIS/HER APPOINTMENT, TERMINATION, AND RENEWAL OF CONTRACT SHOULD BE BASED ON PERFORMANCE EVALUATION CONDUCTED BY THE D/CNPC AND THE REGIONAL EVALUATION TEAM.

SECTION 4. QUALIFICATION. The qualifications of a Barangay Nutrition Worker shall be as follows:

- a. Bonafide resident of the barangay for at least one (1) year, with ability to speak the dialect;
- b. Possession of leadership potentials and the initiative and willingness to serve the barangay (for at least one year);
- c. Willingness to learn and to teach what he/she learned to the barangay people;
- d. At least a HIGHSCHOOL graduate;
- e. Physical and mental fitness; and
- f. At least eighteen (18) years old but not more than sixty (60) years old.

SECTION 5. RECRUITMENT. The Barangay Nutrition Worker shall be recruited from within the barangay and shall be tested on mental ability and proper

work attitude. The D/CNPC shall coordinate with the Barangay Nutrition Committee (BNC) in the recruitment and selection of BNS. Names of qualified BNSs shall be forwarded to the Mayor through the Nutrition Action Officer, and decided and appointed upon by in concurrence with the majority of all SBs/SPs in an assembly called by the local nutrition committee. Once approved, the names shall be forwarded to the Civil Service Commission for appointment.

SECTION 6. TRAINING. Before actual barangay service, the barangay nutrition worker shall undergo a ten-day (10) training on selected topics such as nutrition, health, food production and environmental sanitation – based on defined task expectations to be conducted by a provincial training team in coordination with the municipal and barangay nutrition committee. This training shall be supplemented by a twenty-day (20) practicum to be conducted in the barangay where the worker is assigned, and such activity shall be in coordination with the local training team. Whenever necessary, an annual refresher course shall be given to existing BNSs.

SECTION 7. BENEFITS. The Barangay Nutrition Worker shall be entitled to a training stipend, meal and travel allowance of at least P250.00 a day prior to deployment as volunteer. DURING THE PERIOD OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE, THEY SHALL BE ENTITLED TO ALLOWANCE OF AT LEAST TWO THOUSAND PESOS (P2,000.00) A MONTH. A certain amount shall be provided for building capacities of the BNW.

The Barangay Nutrition Worker shall be granted a civil service eligibility equivalent to second grade after the completion of at least two (2) years of continuous and satisfactory service in the barangay.

SECTION 8. INCENTIVES. TO FURTHER ENHANCE THE PROGRAM, THE NATIONAL NUTRITION COUNCIL, IN COORDINATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, SHALL FORMULATE A SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM WHERE INCUMBENT AND DESERVING BARANGAY NUTRITION WORKERS SHALL BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO AVAIL OF A

SCHOLARSHIP GRANT IN ANY STATE COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY AND PURSUE A DEGREE OR COURSE OF HIS/HER CHOICE OR RELEVANT TO HIS/HER PRESENT POSITION.

SECTION 9. LOCAL NUTRITION COMMITTEES. The implementation of this program shall be under the full responsibility of a Provincial/City/Municipal/Barangay Nutrition Committee headed by the Governor/City/Municipal Mayor/Barangay Captain as Chairperson of the Local Nutrition Committee.

SECTION 10. LOCAL TRAINING TEAM. The local training team of the city/municipality shall be composed of two members chosen from among the members of the City/Municipal Nutrition Committee together with the nutrition action officer and D/CNPC. This team shall follow up the activities of the trained barangay nutrition worker.

SECTION 11. ROLE OF THE MAYOR. The Municipal/City Mayor shall initiate activities to implement this project within the municipality/city, organize the local training teams and recommend the appropriation as local counterpart in the form of additional allowance, health insurance for the barangay nutrition scholar or worker.

SECTION 13. NATIONAL NUTRITION COUNCIL. The National Nutrition Council shall formulate rules and regulations, plans and programs within the limits set forth in this Act, allocate the funds for this project. Likewise, the NNC shall conduct academic training and research activities, take advocacy measures and provide policy guidelines to all of the Program.

SECTION 14. DONATIONS. For the purposes of this Program, the National Nutrition Council and the local governments, are authorized to receive grants, donations, gifts or bequests from various government agencies, government corporations and private entities, such donation being tax exempt.

SECTION 15. APPROPRIATIONS. The amount of One Million Pesos

(P1,000,000.00) out of any available funds from the National Treasury or from the Special Activities Fund is hereby appropriated and authorized to be released for the organization and initial operation of the BNSP and the local governments for the purposes of this program. Local governments are likewise authorized to appropriate such amount necessary for the successful implementation of this program. PROVIDED, THAT THE CITY OR MUNICIPALITY SHALL APPROPRIATE AS PART OF ITS ANNUAL BUDGET FOR PERSONAL SERVICES THE NECESSARY AMOUNT OF FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000.00) PER MONTH PER BARANGAY NUTRITION WORKER FOR THE FIRST AND SECOND CLASS MUNICIPALITIES AND CITIES, PROVIDED FURTHER, THAT THIRD TO FIFTH AND SIXTH CLASS MUNICIPALITIES SHALL APPROPRIATE FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P500.00) PER MONTH PER BARANGAY NUTRITION WORKER.

THE DIFFERENCE IN THE FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000.00) MONTHLY ALLOWANCE PER BARANGAY NUTRITION WORKER SHALL BE INCLUDED IN THE GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT (GAA) FOR THE YEAR FOLLOWING ITS ENACTMENT IN THE NNC BUDGET.

SEC 2. *Separability Clause.* Should any part or provision of this Act be declared unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof not otherwise affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC 3. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, executive orders or any part thereof which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC 4. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect upon publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,