

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 5275

Introduced by Representatives
DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL ARROYO and GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO

AN ACT
CREATING THE POSITION OF BARANGAY NUTRITION WORKER IN EVERY
BARANGAY PROVIDING INCENTIVES THERETO, APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE
NO.1569

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Presidential Decree 1569 was enacted to strengthen the Barangay Nutrition Program by providing one Barangay Nutrition Scholar (BNS) for every barangay. Said scholar will be a barangay-based volunteer worker who will deliver basic nutrition and related health services, and bridge communities with nutrition and related service providers.

The Barangay Nutrition Program is being implemented to address the problem of malnutrition which afflicts vulnerable groups particularly preschool, school children, pregnant women and lactating mothers and other contributory factors which affect the health and nutrition condition of the community as a whole. In general, the program aims to reduce the frequency of malnutrition among moderately and severely affected preschoolers and school children.

Due to the magnitude of the country's malnutrition problem, it urgently needs greater involvement and participation of the people at the grassroots level.

This bill, therefore, provides for the creation of one mandatory position of Barangay Nutrition Worker (BNW) in every barangay to address this basic

concern of the community. This will be in lieu of the BNS which PD 1569 originally mandated. It also seeks to professionalize the position of BNW by requiring concerned applicants to be at least a high school graduate, amongst the many qualifications set forth in the original law.

Due to the urgency of this proposed measure, its approval is most earnestly requested.


DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL ARROYO
Second District, Camarines Sur

GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
Second District, Pampanga

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

SECTION 1. Presidential Decree numbered Fifteen Hundred Sixty-Nine (P.D. 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 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 SANGGUNIANG BAYAN OR THE SANGGUNIANG Panlungsod MEMBERS, THE SANGGUNIANG BARANGAY CONCERNED AND UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF**

THE NATIONAL NUTRITION COUNCIL. 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 [continuously learning] **UNDERGOING ACTUAL TRAINING** under this program, shall serve the barangay on a voluntary basis for at least a [period of one year] **SIX MONTHS. THEREAFTER, THE NATIONAL NUTRITION COUNCIL SHALL ASSESS HIS/HER PERFORMANCE AND MAKE THE NECESSARY RECOMMENDATION FOR HIS/HER APPOINTMENT.**

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 [primary] **HIGH SCHOOL** 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.

SECTION 6. TRAINING. Before actual barangay service, the barangay nutrition worker shall undergo a ten-day 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 practicum to be conducted in the barangay where the worker is assigned, and such activity shall be in coordination with the local training team.

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. **DURING THE PERIOD OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE PRIOR TO HIS/HER APPOINTMENT, THEY SHALL BE ENTITLED TO ALLOWANCE OF TWO THOUSAND PESOS (P2, 000.00) A MONTH.**

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 COURSE RELEVANT TO HIS/HER PRESENT POSITION.

SECTION 9. NUTRITION COMMITTEES. The implementation of this project shall be the total responsibility of a Provincial/City Nutrition Committee headed by the Governor/City Mayor as Chairman and a Municipal Nutrition Committee headed by the Mayor as Chairman.

SECTION 10. LOCAL TRAINING TEAM. The local training team of the municipality shall be composed of two members chosen from among the members of the Municipal Nutrition Committee. 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, organize the local training teams and may recommend the appropriation by his municipality/city of a local counterpart in the form of additional allowance for the barangay nutrition worker.

SECTION 12. BARANGAY NUTRITION WORKERS STAFF SECRETARIAT. There shall be a staff secretariat in every province/city which shall monitor the progress of the program, identify its problems and recommend possible solutions thereto.

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 to the various provinces and/or agencies, for disbursement in accordance with the financial plan of the Barangay Nutrition Workers Project.

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 and government corporations which shall be tax exempt.

SECTION 15. APPROPRIATIONS. The amount of One Million Pesos out of any available funds from the National Treasury or from the Special Activities Funds is hereby appropriated and authorized to be released for the organization and initial operation of the Council 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 ONE THOUSAND PESOS (P1,000.00) PER MONTH PER BARANGAY NUTRITION WORKER, PROVIDED FURTHER, THAT THIRD TO FIFTH 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.

SECTION 2. *Separability Clause.* – If any of the provisions or part of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions or parts hereof not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

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

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

Approved,