



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Sixteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 838



Introduced by Honorable Erlinda M. Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Hunger is defined as the painful sensation due to inadequate food intake. It is a form of severe food insecurity. Prolonged hunger leads to malnutrition. The 6th National Nutrition Survey showed that in 2003, malnutrition persisted among Filipinos. People go hungry because of insufficient food to eat and lack of money to buy food.

Further, the results of surveys conducted by the Social Weather Stations (SWS) reflect an increasing incidence of hunger in the country. The results of 2012 first quarter survey reveal that 3 out of 10 of Filipino families experience hunger, with nothing to eat. This is the highest national proportion recorded since SWS began its survey series on hunger.

This bill intensify efforts in addressing hunger among our citizenry particularly those belonging to families in absolute poverty, the homeless, and mendicants. Under the proposed measure, families will be selected based in the degree of food insecurity and vulnerability using the Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping Systems.

Lastly, this bill will promote the general welfare and safeguard the health and well-being of the nation's population by raising the levels of nutrition among low-income households and individuals. Its approval is highly recommended.


ERLINDA M. SANTIAGO



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AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING FOOD SUBSIDY PROGRAM 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 “*Food Subsidy Program Act of 2013.*”

SEC. 2. **Statement of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to promote the general welfare. Towards this end, there is a need to safeguard the health and well-being of its population by raising the level of nutrition among low-income households in the country.

SEC. 3. **Food Subsidy Program.** – There is hereby established a Food Subsidy Program, hereinafter referred to as the Program, which shall be implemented in every local government unit, in coordination with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and Department of Education (DepEd), to eliminate hunger, improve the health and well-being and assure food distribution to poor individuals or families.

SEC. 4. ***Target Beneficiaries.*** – To identify the beneficiaries of this Act and to provide them with an opportunity to obtain a more nutritious diet, the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), through the local government units and in coordination with the DSWD and DepEd, shall implement the food subsidy program in the areas where the degree of food insecurity and vulnerability using the Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping System (FIVIMS) is most necessary.

For purposes of this Act, FIVIMS is a system or network that evaluates and disseminates information about the sector of population who are food insecure or at-risk and where they are located, the reasons they are food insecure or vulnerable and what remedial actions are to be taken.

SEC. 5. ***Criteria for Determining Food Insecurity.*** – A composite index of criteria shall be used in identifying the food insecure areas. These criteria are as follows: a) ratio of per capita expenditure and per capita income; b) poverty incidence; c) median family income; d) food expenditure and total expenditure; e) cereal expenditure or food expenditure; f) percentage of households with safe water; g) percentage of families with working children; h) unemployment rate; i) cohort survival rate; j) percentage of underweight member of family or individual; k) percentage of underweight adult; and l) percentage of agricultural land under tenancy.

SEC. 6. ***Establishment of Program.*** – The Secretaries of the Interior and Local Government, Health and Social Welfare and Development are hereby authorized to formulate and administer a food subsidy program under which eligible persons, schools or households shall be provided an opportunity to obtain a more nutritious diet through the issuance to them of

allotment of the basic food needed by such person or members of his household.

SEC. 7. ***Orientation.*** – An orientation shall be conducted by an inter-agency technical working group composed of representatives from the DILG, DSWD, DepEd, and LGU, with the stakeholders before actual program implementation to ensure effectiveness and common understanding and respective roles and responsibilities of concerned officials.

SEC. 8. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The Secretary of Interior and Local Government, in coordination with the DSWD and DepEd, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 9. ***Other Food Programs.*** – Nothing in this Act shall affect the existing food programs being implemented by other government agencies.

SEC. 10. ***Auditing Rules and Regulations.*** – All expenditures, disbursement of funds and other activities made under this program shall be subject to existing auditing and accounting rules and regulations.

SEC. 11. ***Appropriations.*** – The fund necessary for the initial operation of this program shall be appropriated from the Special Activities Fund of the Office of the President thereafter, the sum necessary for the continuous operation of the Program shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 12. ***Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 13. *Separability Clause.* – If for any reason, any provision of this Act, or any part thereof, is declared invalid of unconstitutional, all other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 14. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in any two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,