



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



Sixteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 903

Introduced by Honorable Erlinda M. Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the Philippines, undernourishment or malnutrition 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.

Consistent with its commitment to the Millenium Development Goals, the government seeks to reduce malnutrition as the country struggles to reduce health problems of micronutrient and protein-energy malnutrition including vitamin A deficiency disorders (VADO), iron deficiency anemia (IDA) and iodine deficiency disorders (IDO), the latter being considered one of the developing countries' most debilitating and intractable public health problems affecting nearly two billion people, majority of whom are children.

Malnutrition hampers the physical growth of a child and later affects his mental health, productivity and prospect for employment. 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 will be an active research program to be spearheaded by the participating state colleges and universities as a regular program that will address the nutritional and general well-being of the poor following the National Nutrition Council's (NNC) theme, "*Pagkain at paglaki ay bantayan, upang ang wastong nutrisyon ay makamtan.*" In a way, it will seek to encourage every family and community to maintain children's normal growth, through proper diet and regular growth monitoring, a household habit.

This bill seeks to establish the BIDANI network program. There is a need to put nutrition at the forefront of learning and expose the different principles of medicines in relation to nutrition. Once approved, the national government is assured of a partner in providing proper nutrition to the people, particularly the poor. Likewise, it shall ensure the promotion of a healthy and productive citizenry.

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


ERLINDA M. SANTIAGO



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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 “*Barangay Integrated Development Approach for Nutrition Improvement (BIDANI) Act of 2013.*”

SEC. 2. **Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to recognize nutrition as a basic human right, just as the rights 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 that can be achieved only through multi-sectoral efforts and democratic process. It shall work towards the provision of the nutritional needs of the poor sector of the Filipino society who are deprived of said right. Further, the State shall give utmost support to programs and projects that are responsive to the nutritional needs of the people.

SEC. 3. **Objectives.** – This Act shall have the following objectives:

a) Encourage cooperation and participation of academic institutions and local government units in promoting the nutritional well-being of the country;

b) 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) Enhance the productivity and employability of the rural poor by improving their nutrition and life status.

SEC. 4. ***Establishment of the Barangay Integrated Development Approach for Nutrition Improvement Program.*** – The Barangay Integrated Development Approach for Nutrition Improvement (BIDANI) is hereby established as a nutrition-in-development research program involving state colleges and universities which aims to assist the national government in improving the nutrition and general well-being of the poor.

SEC. 5. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The National Nutrition Council (NNC), 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.

SEC. 6. ***Funding and Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary for the implementation of the BIDANI network program is hereby annually 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, 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.

SEC. 7. ***Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 8. ***Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,