

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

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Bill no. **6062**



Introduced by Representative Leni Gerona-Robredo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

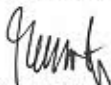
Article 25, Section 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food." As a signatory of the international policy, the Philippines commits to provide every Filipino access to adequate food and nutrition and to ensure that every family has a way to raise their income above the poverty threshold.

Furthermore, our own Constitution requires the State to ensure that the health of the people is cared for and health-consciousness is instilled in them. Various government programs currently address hunger and malnutrition in the country but these are not enough. We cannot eradicate hunger without integrating anti-hunger measures with mechanisms that alleviate poverty.

Today, we have the freedom of speech and expression, the freedom to make our own choices, and the freedom to better ourselves. Sadly, many of our countrymen cannot fully enjoy these freedoms because they lack access to basic needs. This situation robs the human dignity of our people. Senator Ninoy Aquino once said, "The very first freedom that has to be won is freedom from hunger. When you are always concerned about where the next meal will come from, everything else becomes irrelevant." This makes the eradication of hunger and poverty one of our topmost priorities.

This bill specifies actions the State must take to combat hunger and poverty, including the institutionalization of a National Feeding Program, the streamlining of food procurement and food distributions systems, and the creation of a structured demand that ensures and raises the income of poor people, who are mostly small-scale food producers incapable of competing with big industry producers, in the hope that the produce that free Filipinos from hunger are the same produce that free our people from poverty.

In view of the foregoing, passage of this bill is urgently sought.


Leni Gerona-Robredo
Representative, Third District of Camarines Sur

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**AN ACT CREATING A SYSTEM OF FOOD DISTRIBUTION FOR ADDRESSING
THE NUTRITIONAL NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE PROVIDING FOR ITS
PROCUREMENT PROCESS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*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 "National Food Security Act
of 2015"

Section 2. Declaration of Policy - It is, hereby, declared a policy of the State to
develop, create, and implement a nationwide feeding program to alleviate poverty
and hunger in the country. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, ratified by
the Philippines, states everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the
health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food. Furthermore, the
Constitution states "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the
people and instill health consciousness among them."

Chapter I
National Feeding Program

Section 3. National Feeding program – There is, hereby, established a National
Feeding Program which shall aim to alleviate hunger and malnutrition for children
ages 0 – 13 years old.

Section 4. Creation of a National Hunger Targeting System – The Philippine
Statistics Authority (PSA) in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and
Development (DSWD) and Department of Health (DOH) shall establish a nationwide
database that identifies groups and/or individuals that have the least access to
proper nutrition. The database shall identify the most vulnerable groups and/or
individuals to be listed as beneficiaries.

Section 5. Infant feeding program – The DOH, in consultation with DSWD, shall
create a system of distribution through the Barangay Health Workers of food packets
for those targeted by the system created in this Act. The said food packets shall
supplement the nutritional and dietary needs of children ages 0 – 1 year olds.

Section 6. Supplementary Feeding Program – The DSWD shall ensure that children ages 2 – 5 receive the proper nutrients and diet while under their care. Beneficiaries shall be given meals that will meet their nutritional needs. The DSWD may consult with the National Nutrition Council (NNC) to meet the proper nutritional and dietary needs of the children. The following shall be the beneficiaries:

- a) Children 2 - 4 years old in the Supervised Neighborhood Play (SNP) Area
- b) Children 3 - 4 years old enrolled in Day Care Centers (DDC); and
- c) Children 5 years old not enrolled in the Department of Education (DepEd) preschool system but enrolled in DDCs.

Section 7. Elementary Feeding School Program – The DepEd shall ensure that students from Kindergarten to Grade 4 are given the proper meals during school hours. Such meals should contain the proper nutritional and dietary needs of students. The DepEd shall consult the NNC nutritional and dietary specifics.

Chapter II Procurement

Section 8. Procurement of Produce – The Government is, hereby, mandated to ensure that 30% or more of the supplies needed to implement the National Feeding Program are procured from Small-Scale Producers.

Section 9. Registry of Small-Scale Producers – The DA shall keep and regularly update a list of Small-Scale Producers. It shall use Registry for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA), Regional Field Office (RFO) list of beneficiaries, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources's National Program for Municipal Fisherfolk Registration (BFAR FishR) for fisherfolk, and any other list it may deem necessary to keep the registry up to date. *Furthermore*, the DA is required to coordinate with the DSWD to cross-match and compare the registry with the DSWD's National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR) to avoid duplication and redundancy.

Section 10. Procurement process for Small-Scale Producers – For the purposes of this act, procurement from Small Scale producers shall be exempted from the procurement process as stated in Republic Act No.9184, otherwise known as the Procurement Law. Provided, small scale producers shall undergo Negotiated Procurement Participation under the guidelines of the Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) and specified under this act.

Section 11. Negotiated Procurement Participation – Small Scale Producers shall enter a Negotiated Procurement with the government under the guidelines of the GPPB when the following conditions are met:

- a) DA Validation – certification from the DA and/or any of its tasked agency that the individual or family is indeed included in the Registry of Small scale farmers.
- b) Produce/Product Sustainability – when participants have the ability to continue to meet the demand for their produce or product for prolonged periods of time, with or without government intervention.

- c) Community Enrichment – when there is a viable means of improving the well-being of the community where the small scale farmers are situated. This seeks to extend the benefits that may arise from the contract between the small scale farmers and the government. The goal is to achieve positive outcomes such as like poverty reduction, access to education, equitable distribution and management of natural resources, climate change adaptation/mitigation, disaster risk reduction, gender equality, disease reduction, and job generation, among others.

Section 12. Support Services for Small-Scale Producers under the Department of Agriculture – The DA shall institute the following benefits for Small-Scale Producers as contained in their registry:

- a) Training on Production, Harvesting, Procurement Process of this Act, and any other topic the DA sees fit
- b) Subsidized Farm Equipment
- c) Facilities for storage and harvesting
- d) Capacity Building for Small-Scale Farmer
- e) Access to Crop Insurance
- f) Access to credit/low interest rates

Section 13. Support Services for Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries who are Small-Scale Producers - The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) shall institute the following benefits for Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries who are Small-Scale Producers as contained in their list of beneficiaries:

- a) Training on Production, Harvesting, Procurement Process of this Act, and any other topic the DAR sees fit
- b) Subsidized Farm Equipment
- c) Facilities for storage and harvesting
- d) Capacity Building for Small-Scale Farmer
- e) Access to Crop Insurance
- f) Access to credit/low interest rates

Chapter III Food Council

Section 14. National Food Security Council - A National Food Security Council, hereafter referred to as Council, is hereby created as an attached and independent agency to the Office of the President.

Section 15. Mandate of the Council - The Council is mandated to act as the check and balance organization for the food security system. It shall oversee the effective distribution, procurement, and targeting of beneficiaries as mandated in this Act. It shall also serve as a coordinating body for the different departments involved in the implementation of this Act.

Section 16. Chairperson of the Council - The Chairperson of the Council shall be appointed to a six year term by the President of the Philippines. No person may be Chairperson if he has not met the following criteria:

- a) Ten (10) years of work experience in a CSO involved in Food Security
- b) Has no relatives, to the second degree of consanguinity, in the government
- c) Has good moral character
- d) No pending cases

Section 17. Membership of the Council - The Council shall consist of the following members:

- a) Representative from the Department of Agriculture
- b) Representative from the Department of Agrarian Reform
- c) Representative from the Department of Social Welfare and Development
- d) Representative from the Department of Interior and Local Government
- e) Representative from the Department of Education
- f) Representative from the Department of Health
- g) Representative from the National Nutritional Council
- h) Representative from the Department of Science and Technology - Food and Nutrition Research Institute
- i) Four (4) Representatives from Civil Society involved in Food Security or Hunger alleviation
- j) Four (4) Representatives from Small-Scale Producers group

Section 18. Representatives from Civil Society involved in Food Security or Hunger Alleviation - The Representatives for Civil Society shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines upon the recommendation of the National Anti-Poverty Commission. No Representative may be appointed or recommended if he has not met the following criteria:

- a) Five (5) years of service under a Civil Society Organization involved in Food Security or Hunger Alleviation
- b) Has no position in any government agency or office
- c) Has no relatives, to the second degree of consanguinity, in the government
- d) Has good moral character
- e) No pending cases

Section 19. Representatives from Small-Scale Producers group - The Representatives for Small-Scale Producers shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines upon the recommendation of the Department of Agriculture. No Representative may be appointed or recommended if he has not met the following criteria:

- a) Five (5) years as a practicing Small-Scale Producer
- b) Has no position in any government agency or office
- c) Has no relatives, to the second degree of consanguinity, in the government
- d) Has good moral character
- e) No pending cases

Section 20. Appropriations - The funds needed to implement this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

1 **Section 21. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days from
2 the appointment its members, the Council shall promulgate such rules and
3 regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

4
5 **Section 22. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is subsequently
6 declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are not affected
7 thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

8
9 **Section. 23. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
10 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.