

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

Seventeenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **6556**



Introduced by Representative Sharon S. Garin

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Food security, as defined by the United Nations' Committee on World Food Security, is the "condition in which all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life." This modern definition of food security is a two-pronged concept which not only considers an adequate food supply of a country, but also the people's access to such food supply. Food security remains one of the main goals of any country. In the Philippines, we have yet to achieve such goal, but this bill is a step in the right direction.

Aside from ensuring food security, this bill also seeks to address the health issue of Filipinos. It follows that a food secure Philippines, would also naturally lead to a healthier populace as more Filipinos will have access to adequate and nutritious food.

Right now, under-nutrition still remains a serious problem in the Philippines. This is especially troubling for children where chronic under-nutrition can lead to stunting and wasting and cause damage to health, physical growth, and brain development. Stunting is the condition wherein a child's height is below the normal level of other children his, wasting on the other hand is when a child is too thin for his height. Simply put, there is a reduced rate physical development. Stunting in the first two years is often irreversible, and children affected are impaired for life and have lower chances of finishing school and becoming highly-productive adults. In the Philippines, studies have shown that 3.6 million of children 0-5 years are underweight; and 4 million are stunted.

This bill seeks to address this problem of hunger and malnutrition, especially in children who are among the most vulnerable. To this end, it creates a National Feeding Program which is geared towards children aged 0-13. To facilitate this feeding program, this bill also mandates a percentage of supplies needed for the feeding program to come from small-scale suppliers and shall be exempt from regular procurement process. Finally, to ensure the effective implementation of this act, the National Food Security Council is created to act as the coordinating body.

This bill is anchored in our commitment to food security, coupled with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which 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,” and the Constitutional declaration that the “State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.”

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



SHARON S. GARIN
AAMBIS-Owa Partylist

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13 AN ACT
14 CREATING A SYSTEM OF FOOD DISTRIBUTION FOR ADDRESSING THE
15 NUTRITIONAL NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE PROVIDING FOR ITS PROCUREMENT
16 PROCESS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER
17 PURPOSES
18

19 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress*
20 *assembled:*
21

22 SECTION 1. *Short Title* – This Act shall be known as the "*National Food Security*
23 *Act*"

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

31 Chapter I
32 National Feeding Program
33

34 SEC. 3. *National Feeding Program* – There is, hereby, established a National
35 Feeding Program which shall aim to alleviate hunger and malnutrition for children ages 0 -
36 13 years old.

SEC. 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.

SEC. 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.

SEC. 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 (DCC), and
- c) Children 5 years old not enrolled in the Department of Education (DepEd) preschool system but enrolled in DCCs.

SEC. 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

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

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

12 **SEC. 10. *Procurement process for Small-Scale Producers*** – For the purposes of this
13 act, procurement from Small Scale producers shall be exempted from the procurement
14 process as stated in Republic Act No. 91.84, otherwise known as the Procurement Law.
15 Provided, small scale producers shall undergo Negotiated Procurement Participation under
16 the guidelines of the Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) and specified under this
17 act.

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

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

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

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

- 11 a) Training on Production, Harvesting, Procurement Process of this Act, and any other
12 topic the DA sees fit;
13 b) Subsidized Farm Equipment;
14 c) Facilities for storage and harvesting;
15 d) Capacity Building for Small-Scale Farmer;
16 e) Access to Crop insurance;
17 f) Access to Credit/low interest rates.

18 **SEC. 13. *Support Services for Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries who are Small-Scale***
19 ***Producers*** – The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) shall institute the following benefits
20 for Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries who are Small-Scale Produces as contained in their list of
21 beneficiaries.

- 22 a) Training on Production, Harvesting, Procurement Process of this Act, and any other
23 topic the DAR sees fit;
24 b) Subsidized Farm Equipment;
25 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**

SEC. 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.

SEC. 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.

SEC. 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;

SEC. 17. *Membership of the Council* – The Council shall consist of the following members:

- a) Representative from the Department of Agriculture (DA);
- b) Representative from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR);
- c) Representative from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD);
- d) Representative from the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG);
- e) Representative from the Department of Education (DepEd);

- 1 f) Representative from the Department of Health (DOH);
- 2 g) Representative from the National Nutritional Council (NNC);
- 3 h) Representative from the Department of Science and Technology - Food and Nutrition
- 4 Research Institute (DOST-FNRI);
- 5 i) Four (4) Representatives from Civil Society involved in Food Security or hunger
- 6 alleviation;
- 7 j) Four (4) Representatives from Small-Scale Producers group.

8 **SEC. 18. *Representatives from Civil Society involved in Food Security or Hunger***

9 ***Alleviation*** – The Representatives for Civil Society shall be appointed by the President of the
10 Philippines upon the recommendation of the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC). No
11 Representative may be appointed or recommended if he has not met the following criteria:

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

18 **SEC. 19. *Representatives from Small-Scale Producers Group*** – The Representatives
19 for Small-Scale Producers shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines upon the
20 recommendation of the Department of Agriculture. No Representative may be appointed or
21 recommended if he has not met the following Criteria:

- 22 a) Five (5) years as a practicing Small-Scale Producer;
- 23 b) Has no position in any government agency or office;
- 24 c) Has no relatives, to the second degree of consanguinity, in the government;
- 25 d) Has good moral character;

1 e) No pending Cases;

2 **SEC. 20. *Appropriations*** – The funds needed to implement this Act shall be included
3 in the annual General Appropriations Act.

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

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

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

12 *Approved,*