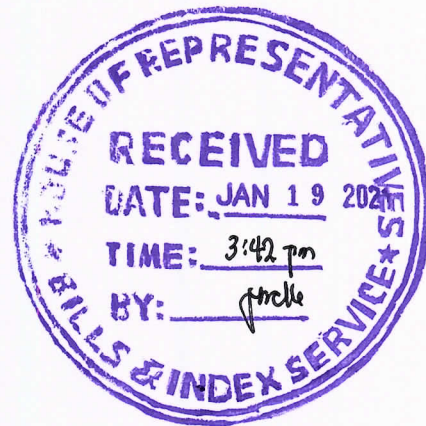




Republic of the Philippines

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Quezon City, Metro Manila

Eighteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8426

Introduced by Honorable Roger G. Mercado

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Since the issuance of Executive Order No. 101, Series of 2020, the implementation of a wholesome approach in attaining zero hunger presents a policy that is worth institutionalizing.

While it is true that E.O. 101 has initially given life to the Task Force on zero hunger, the continuity of the policy hinges on the sitting President and is at risk of being discontinued once another administration will sit in. This bill if enacted will ensure the continuity of the fight against hunger under the Whole-of-Nation approach.

Therefore, passage of this bill is hereby being earnestly sought.

ROGER GAVIOLA MERCADO



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HOUSE BILL NO. 8426

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**AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE WHOLE OF NATION APPROACH IN ATTAINING ZERO
HUNGER THEREBY CREATING A NATIONAL TASK FORCE ON ZERO HUNGER**

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

1 **SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy.** Section 11, Article XIII of the Constitution provides
2 that the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health
3 development, which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social
4 services available to all the people at affordable cost.

5 Paragraph 2, Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural
6 Rights provides that States Parties recognize the fundamental right of everyone to be free
7 from hunger, and shall take, individually and through international cooperation, measures to
8 improve the methods of production, conservation and distribution of food.

SECTION 2. *Creation of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Zero Hunger.* The Inter-Agency Task Force on Zero Hunger (Task Force) is hereby created, to be composed of the following:

Chairperson	:	The Cabinet Secretary
Vice Chairperson	:	Secretary, Department of Social Welfare and Development
Members	:	Secretary, Department of Agriculture
		Secretary, Department of Agrarian Reform;
		Secretary, Department of Budget and Management
		Secretary, Department of Education
		Secretary, Department of Environment and Natural
		Resources
		Secretary, Department of Health
		Secretary, Department of Labor and Employment
		Secretary, Department of Interior and Local Government
		Secretary, Department of Trade and Industry
		Secretary, Department of Science and Technology
		Secretary, Presidential Communications Operations Office
		Director General, National Economic and Development
		Authority
		Chairperson, Commission on Higher Authority

The Task Force members may designate an alternate, with a rank not lower than an Assistant Secretary, to represent their respective offices in the Task Force, provided that the alternate must be fully authorized to decide on behalf of the member.

SECTION 3. *Powers and Functions.* The Task Force shall ensure that government policies, initiatives and projects in attaining zero hunger shall be coordinated, responsive and effective. Towards this end, the Task Force shall have the following powers and functions:

- a) Formulate a National Food Policy (NFP), which shall outline national priorities based on a comprehensive understanding of the problem of hunger and related issues, and shall provide a roadmap for achieving zero hunger, taking into consideration existing laws and issuances, as well as international law and treaty obligations. The NFP shall include initiatives for ending hunger, achieving food security, improving nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture;
- b) Coordinate and rationalize the efforts of concerned government agencies and instrumentalities to ensure a whole-of-nation approach to attaining hunger;
- c) Monitor and evaluate, through the identification of key performance indicators, the government's progress in ending hunger, achieving food security, improving nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture;
- d) Create technical working groups from among its member-agencies to address particular concerns relative to the implementation of this Act;
- e) Prepare and submit to the President annual reports on the state of hunger, food security, nutrition and agriculture production in the country as well as the Task Force initiatives and recommendations relative thereto; and
- f) Perform such other functions as may be directed by the President.

SECTION 4. *Secretariat.* The Task Force shall have a Secretariat to be composed of personnel from the member-agencies, which shall provide administrative, operational and technical assistance to the Task Force.

SECTION 5. *Support of Government Agencies.* The Task Force may enlist the support and assistance of other government agencies and instrumentalities in the attainment of the objectives of this Act. Local government units are enjoined to render such necessary assistance to the Task Force in the implementation of this Act.

SECTION 6. *Funding.* The initial funding requirements for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against current appropriations of the member-agencies of the Task Force. The budgetary requirements for the succeeding years shall be included in the annual budget proposals of the concerned agencies.

1 **SECTION 7. *Separability.*** If any provision of this Act is declared invalid, illegal or
2 unconstitutional, the provisions not thereby affected shall remain in force and effect.

3 **SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.*** All orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances
4 or parts thereof that are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified
5 accordingly.

6 **SECTION 9.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

7 Approved,