

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **2243**



Introduced by Representative Stella Luz A. Quimbo

AN ACT

EXTENDING THE NATIONAL FEEDING PROGRAM TO UNDERNOURISHED CHILDREN IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11037, ENTITLED, “AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING A NATIONAL FEEDING PROGRAM FOR UNDERNOURISHED CHILDREN IN PUBLIC DAY CARE, KINDERGARTEN AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS TO COMBAT HUNGER AND UNDERNUTRITION AMONG FILIPINO CHILDREN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In 2018, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte signed Republic Act No. 11037, more popularly known as the “Masustansyang Pagkain para sa Batang Pilipino Act.” The Act institutionalized, among others, the supplementary feeding program in the Philippines which has always aimed to develop the Filipino’s human capital. The potential for learning is diminished if children suffer from hunger and extreme poverty. In the Philippines, students cease from attending school because they lack adequate food supply to sustain their energy needed to learn. The Department of Science and Technology has also been conducting supplementary feeding programs in the country to improve the nutritional status of undernourished individuals by increasing their consumptions of micronutrients.

In June 2019, the school principal of Victorino Mapa High School, one of the oldest high schools in the nation’s capital, noted that among the persistent problems that schools face is children’s hunger. It is almost absurd to expect students to focus on their studies when their stomachs are grumbling.

Worse, in some cases, Filipino adolescents engage in child labor just so they may have something to eat while in school. For instance, Jojo, an eighth-grade student in Taguig City, works as a garbage collector and his earnings from which become his pocket money for school.

The passage of Republic Act No. 11037 is laudable and this proposed legislation wishes to improve the measure further. The Act covers day care to public elementary students because 24.5 percent of school children (ages 6 to 10) are stunted, while 7.6 percent of them are wasted. However, in the case of adolescent children, 26.3 percent of them are stunted while 11.3 percent are wasted. The nutritional status of high school students is every bit as alarming as that of elementary school children. Thus, they should likewise be considered as beneficiaries of the supplementary feeding program.

Further, Republic Act No. 11037 must also be amended to include even younger children than those attending grade school, since nutrition needs at the formative years are crucial to ensuring avoiding incidences of stunted or wasted growth.

As such, there is a pressing and immediate need to broaden the coverage of Republic Act No. 11037 to include high school students, as well as kindergarten students. Our children and all future generations will reap a prosperous, stable, and peaceful society if we invest on their health and education today. We must institutionalize prioritizing their access to quality schooling and nutrition.

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



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

SECTION 1. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 11037, entitled, “AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING A NATIONAL FEEDING PROGRAM FOR UNDERNOURISHED CHILDREN IN PUBLIC DAY CARE, KINDERGARTEN AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS TO COMBAT HUNGER AND UNDERNUTRITION AMONG FILIPINO CHILDREN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR” is hereby amended to read as follows:

X X X

“(a) Supplemental Feeding Program for Day Care Children. – The DSWD, in coordination with the LGUs concerned, shall implement a supplemental feeding program for undernourished children with ages three

(3) to five (5) years. The Program shall be administered in day care centers or in any other facility which can be used for such purpose: *Provided*, That the Program shall include the provision of at least one (1) fortified meal for a period of not less than one hundred twenty (120) days in a year: **PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT THE AFORMENTIONED MEALS SHALL COST AN AVERAGE OF TWENTY-NINE PESOS (P29.00) PER MEAL TO ENSURE THAT [SCHOOL] DAY CARE CHILDREN RECEIVE THE APPROPRIATE AMOUNT OF NUTRITION, WHICH MAY BE ADJUSTED EVERY YEAR TO ACCOUNT FOR INFLATION AND/OR FOR NUTRITIONAL ADJUSTMENTS AS RECOMMENDED BY FNRI: PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT FOR EACH DAY CARE CENTER OF DSWD, AN ALLOWANCE AMOUNTING UP TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL MEAL COST SHALL BE ALLOCATED TOWARDS MEAL DISTRIBUTION AND OTHER OVERHEAD COSTS OF THE PROGRAM:** *Provided, [further]* **FINALLY**, That in the preparation of fortified meals, the DSWD shall work in collaboration with recognized parents' organizations, **AS WELL AS THE PARENTS OF THE BENEFICIARIES OF THE PROGRAM, WHENEVER PRACTICABLE;**

“(b) School-Based Feeding Program. – The DepEd shall implement a school-based feeding program for undernourished public school children from kindergarten to grade [six (6)] **TWELVE (12)**: *Provided*, That the Program shall include the provision of at least one (1) fortified meal to all undernourished public **KINDERGARTEN**, elementary, **AND SECONDARY** school children for a period of not less than one hundred twenty (120) days in a year: **PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT THE AFOREMENTIONED MEALS SHALL COST AN AVERAGE OF TWENTY-NINE PESOS (P29.00) PER MEAL TO ENSURE THAT SCHOOL CHILDREN RECEIVE THE APPROPRIATE AMOUNT OF NUTRITION, WHICH MAY BE ADJUSTED EVERY YEAR TO ACCOUNT FOR INFLATION AND/OR FOR NUTRITIONAL ADJUSTMENTS AS RECOMMENDED BY FNRI: PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT FOR EACH SCHOOL DIVISION OF DEPED, AN ALLOWANCE AMOUNTING UP TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL MEAL COST SHALL BE ALLOCATED TOWARDS**

1 MEAL DISTRIBUTION AND OTHER OVERHEAD COSTS OF THE
2 PROGRAM: *PROVIDED, FINALLY*, THAT IN THE PREPARATION OF
3 FORTIFIED MEALS, THE DEPED SHALL WORK IN COLLABORATION
4 WITH RECOGNIZED PARENTS' ORGANIZATIONS, AS WELL AS THE
5 PARENTS OF THE BENEFICIARIES OF THE PROGRAM, WHENEVER
6 PRACTICABLE;

7
8 X X X
9

10 “(h) Integrated Nutrition Education, Behavioral Transformation, and
11 Social Mobilization. – The Program shall be complemented by a public
12 health, nutrition, and values transformation campaign to promote a holistic
13 and integrated approach to health and nutrition education. Orientation-
14 training on the objectives and mechanics of the Program shall be held
15 among the personnel of NGAs and LGUs concerned, [parent volunteers]
16 **PARENTS OF THE BENEFICIARIES**, and the parent-teachers associations
17 (PTAs) to generate support for the Program. The NGAs concerned shall
18 also endeavor to mobilize community organizations to continue nutrition
19 education outside of the school. **THE NGAS AND LGUS CONCERNED**
20 **SHALL REGULARLY PROVIDE THE PARENTS OF PROGRAM**
21 **BENEFICIARIES WITH TAILORED HEALTH AND NUTRITION**
22 **EDUCATION WORKSHOPS. PARENTS OF PROGRAM BENEFICIARIES**
23 **SHALL BE REQUIRED TO ATTEND SUCH WORKSHOPS AS**
24 **DETERMINED BY THE CONCERNED AUTHORITY.”**
25

26 **SECTION 2.** Section 5 (a) of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:
27

28 X X X
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30 “(a) With the highest prevalence of undernutrition and nutrient-
31 deficiency among children aged three (3) years up to grade [six (6)]
32 **TWELVE (12)** level;”
33

34 X X X

1
2 **SECTION 3.** Section 7 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

3
4 “SEC. 7. *Local Government Assistance.* – LGUs shall assist the NGAs
5 in the efficient and effective implementation of the Program in accordance
6 with Section 4 of this Act and shall be authorized to use a portion of the
7 Special Education Fund (SEF) and/or their twenty percent (20%)
8 development fund **AND/OR OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDS** as
9 provided for in Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the "Local
10 Government Code of 1991", as amended, to augment the appropriations
11 available under the General Appropriations Act (GAA).”
12

13 **SECTION 4.** Section 8 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

14
15 “SEC. 8. *Private Sector Participation.* – The NGAs shall encourage the
16 participation of the private sector in the Program which shall include, among
17 others, PTAs, private corporations, peoples and nongovernment
18 organizations and such other groups or organizations, both foreign and
19 local, that may want to be partner in whole or in part with the implementation
20 of the Program: **PROVIDED, THAT THE DEPED SHALL STRENGTHEN**
21 **LINKAGES WITH MICRO, SMALL, AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES AND**
22 **COMMUNITY-BASED AND GRASSROOTS INITIATIVES FROM WHICH**
23 **DEPED SHALL SOURCE THE MEALS FOR THE PROGRAM,**
24 **WHENEVER PRACTICABLE.”**
25

26 **SECTION 5. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary for the implementation of this
27 Act shall be included in the **RESPECTIVE** budgets of the Department of Education
28 **AND DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT** in the annual
29 General Appropriations Act.
30

31 **SECTION 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within ninety (90) days from the
32 effectivity of this Act, the Department of Education **AND DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL**
33 **WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT** shall, in consultation with the National Nutrition
34 Council, the Food and Nutrition Research Institute, the Department of Health, the

1 Department of Agriculture, the Department of Interior and Local Government, and
2 concerned LGUs, and such other relevant government agencies, nongovernment
3 organizations, and development partners, promulgate the rules and regulations for the
4 effective implementation of this Act.

5
6 **SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.*** – Republic Act No. 11037 is hereby amended. All
7 laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, resolutions, rules and regulations or
8 parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed
9 or amended accordingly.

10
11 **SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.*** – Should any provision of this Act or any part hereof
12 be declared unconstitutional, the other provisions or parts not affected thereby shall
13 remain valid and effective.

14
15 **SECTION 9. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its
16 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
17 circulation.

18
19 *Approved,*