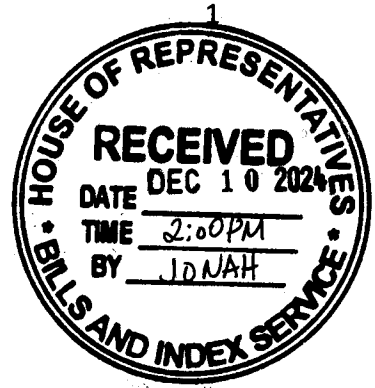


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. **11188**



Introduced by Hon. Faustino Michael T. Dy III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The sad and alarming reality of hidden hunger – micronutrient malnutrition – rings all too true for Filipino children. The confluence of various, oft interrelated, factors – available supply, high prices of goods, poverty, accessibility to government intervention and food, etc. – have led to the undeniable fact that many Filipino children – adults even – are malnourished. But note that weight is not a gauge for this problem. Even visually big persons can suffer from malnutrition, and thin ones may be healthy. The more accurate indicators are the presence or absence of disease, feelings of malaise, fatigue, etc. Unless serious, these symptoms are often neglected or dismissed as having other causes. Even the attentive parent or guardian are sometimes unfortunately lacking in knowledge or resources to meet the nutritional requirements of the child.

Having recently attended a seminar on food fortification in Switzerland under the aegis of the Department of Agriculture, the World Food Program (WFP) and The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), this representation's eyes were opened to the possibility of a promising solution to this countrywide epidemic. The repercussions of micronutrient malnutrition, specifically as regards Vitamin A and iodine, may be already apparent in the dismal performance of the Philippines in reading comprehension, and mathematics and science. Based on the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) released in 2019, the Philippines scored the lowest among 79 countries. In terms of mathematics and science, the Philippines ranked second-lowest.¹

The effects on job performance and productivity are doubtless directly related to the health status of the populace. Imagine if the above trajectory continues unhampered.

There are doubtless many more relevant consequences of a population that was starved by unfortunate family circumstances, societal ills, government bureaucratic inefficiency, etc. Actions to suppress and reverse this condition, commendable as they are, obviously need to be supplemented. The government has been implementing various programs to help make its citizenry healthy from childhood, but more need to be done.

The WFP and GAIN have developed a handbook for guidance on the production of

¹ Mirasol Joy Molina Mirasol et al. "Statutory policy analysis on access to Philippine quality basic education."

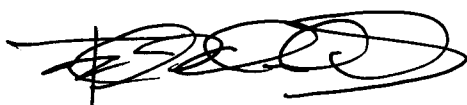
Science Direct.com 2021

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2666374021000637#:~:text=Based%20on%20the%20PISA%20released,the%20implementation%20of%20these%20reforms.>

fortified food kernels², focusing on fortified rice, using extrusion³ technology. Such technology uses broken rice – often thrown to waste – or non-broken rice, and appears to improve the quality of rice by incorporating micronutrients to address the deficiencies in vitamins and minerals which are often hard to fulfill. Sometimes, even the agricultural produce we eat cannot adequately meet our daily needs.

Through this measure, it is hoped that a palpable positive change will be felt; if not immediately, then soon enough to abate – for the individual, a declining physical and intellectual condition, and for the nation, a spiraling economic stagnation.

In view of this representation's burning desire to address this most important issue, immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



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5th District, Isabela

² **Brummer, Thomas.** Handbook for the Production of Fortified Food Kernels. 2019

³ "Extrusion is a process of combination of several unit operations, whose operating principle is similar in all types. The food ingredients are subjected to compression, mixing, shearing, kneading and high-temperature cooking thus converting the ingredients into a molten material. These molten materials are then expelled out through a narrow die to develop semi or fully cooked food with minimum nutritional losses (Fellows 2009). In the extrusion process, raw ingredients are fed into the extruder barrel through the feed hopper and the screw then conveys the food along with it. The volume of the food gets restricted by the smaller flights inside the barrel and this increases the resistance to movement. As a result, it fills the barrel and the spaces between the screw flights and becomes compressed. Further down the barrel, the screw kneads the material into a semi-solid, plasticized mass. Here, the temperature rises rapidly due to the frictional and electric heat. The food is then passed to the section of the barrel where the smallest flights increases the pressure and shearing of the food. Finally, it is forced through one or more restricted openings (dies) at the discharge end of the barrel as the food emerges under pressure from the die. The resulting product expands to the final shape and cools rapidly as the moisture is flashed off as steam. A variety of shapes including rods, spheres, doughnuts, tubes, strips and shells could be made by changing the die (Rizvi et al.1995)." **Prabha Krishna et al.** "Recent development, challenges, and prospects of extrusion technology." *ScienceDirect*. 2021, January 20. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2666833521000095#:~:text=Extrusion%20is%20a%20process%20of%20combination%20of>

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
 Third Regular Session

House Bill No. 11188

INTRODUCED BY REP. FAUSTINO MICHAEL T. DY III

AN ACT
MANDATING THE USE AND FORTIFICATION OF RICE GRAINS,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8976, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
"AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE FOOD FORTIFICATION PROGRAM AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES," APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Title. – This Act shall be known as "Rice Fortification Act of 2024."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – Article II, Sec. 15 of the 1987 Constitution states, "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them."

To this end, the State shall promote and maintain an efficient and effective method of rice fortification using extrusion technology – or other technology that may later be more suitable and available – incorporating Vitamin A and iodine to broken and non-broken rice grains, and a safe and systematic distribution of said fortified food to the population, especially the vulnerable sectors as may be determined by the appropriate government office.

SECTION 3. Section 6 of Republic Act No. 8976 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 6. Mandatory Food Fortification. - (a) the fortification of staple foods based on standards sets by the DOH through the BFAD is hereby made mandatory for the following: (1) Rice INCLUDING BROKEN RICE GRAINS THROUGH EXTRUSION OR OTHER TECHNOLOGY – with Iron, VITAMIN A AND IODINE; xxx "

SECTION 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The DOH through the BFAD and in consultation with other concerned government agencies, non-government organizations, private sectors and consumer groups involved in nutrition, shall formulate the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) necessary to implement the provisions of this Act within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act. The IRR issued pursuant to this Section shall take effect thirty (30) days after publication in a national newspaper of general application.

SECTION 5. Repealing Clause. – Republic Act No. 8976 and all other Acts, decrees,

letters of instruction, issuances, orders including Department of Social Work and Development Administrative Order No. 9, series of 2005, or parts thereof inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. Separability Clause. – If any part of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the rest of the provisions shall remain in force and effect.

SECTION 7. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect 15 days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation or in the Official Gazette.

APPROVED.