

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2325



Introduced by Representatives
BELLA VANESSA B. SUANSING and MIKAELA ANGELA B. SUANSING

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,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “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

The following bill seeks to amend Republic Act No. 11037, or the “Masustansyang Pagkain Para Sa Batang Pilipino Act”, to expand the coverage of the National Feeding Program to cover high school students who suffer from hunger and malnutrition due to financial constraints and other external factors that may pose challenges to their nutrition, development and well-being.

The expansion of coverage of the National Feeding Program to cover qualified high school students, i.e. students from Grades 7 to 12, would provide a safety net for our local youth, particularly those whose families and households are faced with challenges in economic security. Amendments to R.A. No. 11037 proposed by this bill aim to ameliorate the impact of hunger and malnutrition as pressing causes of learning difficulties and lagging performances of our students relative to students from other countries, thereby honoring the mandate of this Government to recognize the vital role of our nation’s youth in nation-building and to promote the protection of their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being.

The following measure introduces amendments to the measure previously filed by Rep. Stella Luz A. Quimbo during the 19th Congress (House Bill No. 2243).

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


BELLA VANESSA B. SUANSING
2nd District of Sultan Kudarat


MIKAELA ANGELA B. SUANSING
1st District of Nueva Ecija

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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”

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

“(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 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 MEAL DISTRIBUTION AND OTHER OVERHEAD COSTS OF THE PROGRAM: PROVIDED, FINALLY, THAT IN THE PREPARATION OF FORTIFIED MEALS, THE DEPED SHALL WORK IN COLLABORATION WITH RECOGNIZED PARENTS’ ORGANIZATIONS, AS WELL AS THE PARENTS OF THE BENEFICIARIES OF THE PROGRAM, WHENEVER PRACTICABLE;**

X X X

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

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

x x x

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

x x x

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Education **AND DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT** shall, in consultation with the National Nutrition Council, the Food and Nutrition Research Institute, the Department of Health, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Interior and Local Government, and concerned LGUs, and such other relevant government agencies, nongovernment organizations, and development partners, promulgate the rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

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

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

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

Approved,