

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **4085**



**INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES RALPH WENDEL P. TULFO
AND JOCELYN P. TULFO**

**AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL NUTRITION COMMISSION,
REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 491,
ENTITLED "CREATING A NATIONAL NUTRITION COUNCIL AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES"**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Presidential Decree No. 491, otherwise known as the "Nutrition Act of the Philippines", created the National Nutrition Council (NNC) as the country's highest policy-making and coordinating body for nutrition.¹ However, since its establishment in 1974, the NNC continues to operate on a modest scale, with more or less a hundred employees comprising the national and regional offices,² despite it being the lead agency in fighting hunger and malnutrition in the entire country.

In order to achieve nutritional adequacies for all Filipinos, malnutrition has to be fully addressed in all its conditions, such as micro-nutrient related malnutrition, overweight, obesity, and diet-related non-communicable diseases, while also attending to prevalent issues of wasting, stunting, underweight, and vitamin and mineral deficiencies, which characterize undernutrition.³ For decades, there have been almost no improvement in the prevalence of undernutrition in the country.

According to the World Bank, in order to address the challenge of reducing undernutrition, there is a need to build a strong and more coordinated partnership for nutrition by strengthening the NNC to provide the supervisory and oversight capacities needed for effective and efficient implementation of its programs.⁴

¹ "Mandates and Functions", *National Nutrition Council*, <https://www.nnc.gov.ph/transparency/8-transparency/183-mandates-and-functions>.

² "Staffing Summary", *Department of Budget and Management*, <https://www.dbm.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/Staffing/STAFFING2024/DOH/B.pdf>

³ "Different Types of Malnutrition", *National Nutrition Council*, <https://nnc.gov.ph/regional-offices/mindanao/region-ix-zamboanga-peninsula/7819-different-types-of-malnutrition>.

⁴ "Undernutrition in the Philippines: Scale, Scope, and Opportunities for Nutrition Policy and Programming", *The World Bank*, 15 June 2021, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/philippines/publication/-key-findings-undernutrition-in-the-philippines>.

Given its strategic programs, one of which is the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition (PPAN), a five-year roadmap which serves as a blueprint to guide the government, non-governmental organizations, academe, and the private sector in a coordinated effort to reduce all forms of malnutrition,⁵ this proposed legislative measure seeks to expand the functions and scope of the NNC. This bill will further support their commitment to ensure improved access to quality nutrition and related interventions through formulation and coordination of policies and programs with excellence, integrity, and transparency.

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



RALPH WENDEL P. TULFO

Representative

2nd District of Quezon City



JOCELYN P. TULFO

Representative

ACT-CIS Partylist

⁵ Pazzibugan, Dona Z., “5-year plan to fight malnutrition formed”, *Inquirer.net*, <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1826601/5-year-plan-to-fight-malnutrition-formed#:~:text=MANILA%2C%20Philippines%20—%20A%20five-,children%2C%20officials%20said%20on%20Monday.>

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OTHER PURPOSES"

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the "Nutrition Act of 2025".

2
3 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
4 promote, propagate, and develop further the framework for expanding the National
5 Nutritional Council which aims to protect the health and well-being of the general
6 population especially toddlers and senior citizens. In addition, it is also a declared
7 policy of the State under Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution to ensure and
8 guarantee the right of the Filipinos to health and instill health consciousness among
9 them.

10
11 In several international commitments, the State commits to the development of the
12 nation's health sector and its social protection programs consistent with the principles
13 embodied in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the
14 Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Convention on the Eradication of All
15 Forms of Discrimination against Women. Therefore, the State ensures to:

- (a) Provide good nutrition;
- (b) Ensure food security;
- (c) Eliminate hunger;
- (d) End all forms of malnutrition;
- (e) Improve the quality of life;
- (f) Prioritize nutrition for all age groups; and
- (g) Collaborate across all branches of the government, local government units, civil society organizations, and private sectors to guarantee improved human health and well-being.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

- (a) *Nutrition* refers to the process of providing or obtaining the food necessary for health and growth;
- (b) *Malnutrition* refers to the lack of proper nutrition, caused by not having enough to eat, not eating enough of the right things, or being unable to use the food that one does at;
- (c) *Hunger* refers to a status of an individual whose food intake regularly provides less than their minimum energy requirements;
- (d) *Food Security* refers to an incidence where people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life;
- (e) *Urban Poor* refers to the situation wherein people live below a certain amount of income in the city and have limited access to some social means; and

1 (f) *Non-Government Organizations* refer to non-stock, non-profit organizations duly
2 registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission, focusing on the
3 upliftment of the basic or disadvantaged sectors of society by providing
4 advocacy, training, community organizing, research, access to resources, and
5 other similar activities, as defined in Republic Act No. 8425, otherwise known as
6 the "Social Reform and Poverty Alleviation Act".

7
8 **SEC. 4. *Renaming of the National Nutritional Council.*** – The nomenclature of the
9 National Nutrition Council which was established pursuant to Presidential Decree No.
10 491, as amended, is hereby changed to the "National Nutrition Commission",
11 hereinafter referred to as the "Commission", which shall be attached to the Office of the
12 President for general direction and coordination.

13
14 **SEC. 5. *Composition of the Commission.*** – The Commission shall be headed by a
15 Chairperson with the rank of Cabinet Secretary and two (2) Commissioners with the
16 rank of Undersecretary. The Chairperson and the Commissioners shall be citizens and
17 residents of the Philippines, of good moral character, of recognized probity and
18 independence, and must have distinguished themselves professionally in public, civic,
19 or academic service in the fields of health and nutrition. They must have been in the
20 active practice of their professions for at least ten (10) years.

21
22 **SEC. 6. *Terms of Office.*** – The term of office of the Chairperson and the
23 Commissioners shall be six (6) years without reappointment. Of the first set of
24 appointees, the Chairperson and first commissioner appointed shall hold office for six
25 (6) years and the second commissioner appointed shall serve for a term of four (4) years.
26 In case a vacancy occurs before the expiration of the term of office, the appointment to
27 such vacancy shall only be for the unexpired term of the predecessor. The Chairperson
28 and the Commissioners shall enjoy the security of tenure and shall not be suspended or
29 removed from office, except for just cause as provided by law. At the expiration of the
30 term of the Chairperson or in case of vacancy, the most senior of the Commissioners

1 shall temporarily assume and perform the duties and functions of the Chairperson until
2 a permanent Chairperson is appointed by the President.

3
4 **SEC. 7. Powers, Functions, and Responsibilities of the Commission.** – The powers,
5 functions, and responsibilities of the Commission are as follows:

- 6
- 7 (a) To formulate an integrated and multi-sectoral national policy, programs,
8 activities, and projects on nutrition and food to ensure good nutrition, eliminate
9 hunger, and food security;
- 10
- 11 (b) To supervise, coordinate, monitor, and evaluate the implementation of its
12 projects, programs, and activities undertaken by all agencies and
13 instrumentalities of both the government and private sector concerning nutrition
14 and food. It shall coordinate with the National Disaster Risk Reduction and
15 Management Council and the Department of Social Welfare and Development
16 (DSWD) to ensure proper nutrition and food during emergencies and disasters;
- 17
- 18 (c) To provide technical assistance to increase the competencies and capabilities of
19 stakeholders and health workers through the conduct of public education,
20 capacity building, skills development, and advocacy;
- 21
- 22 (d) To establish a continuing program for information dissemination and awareness;
- 23
- 24 (e) To create and maintain a system for nutrition surveillance with a gender
25 perspective;
- 26
- 27 (f) To coordinate the release of public funds for nutrition and food in accordance
28 with the approved projects, programs, and activities;
- 29
- 30 (g) To coordinate all requests for loans and grants by the government agencies
31 involved in the nutrition and food program;
- 32

1 (h) To provide monetary and non-monetary incentives to nutrition champions by
2 establishing a rewards and recognition system; and

3
4 (i) To call on any department, bureau, agency, and other instrumentalities of the
5 government for assistance in the form of personnel, resources, and facilities as the
6 need arises.

7
8 **SEC. 8. *Provisional Members and Linkages.*** – The Commission, upon call, shall have
9 the support, assistance, and coordination of the following provisional members:

10
11 (a) Undersecretaries of the following government bodies:

- 12 (1) Department of Health (DOH);
13 (2) Department of Agriculture;
14 (3) Department of the Interior and Local Government;
15 (4) Department of Education (DepEd);
16 (5) DSWD;
17 (6) Department of Trade and Industry;
18 (7) Department of Labor and Employment;
19 (8) Department of Science and Technology;
20 (9) Department of Budget and Management;
21 (10) National Economic and Development Authority;

22
23 (b) Presidents of the Leagues of Local Government Units:

- 24 (1) League of Provinces;
25 (2) League of Cities;
26 (3) League of Municipalities;
27 (4) Liga ng mga Barangay;

28
29 (c) Maximum of three (3) representatives from any of the following private sector:

- 30 (1) Health and nutrition professional organizations;
31 (2) Farmer and fisherfolk;

- (3) Women;
- (4) Children;
- (5) Urban poor;
- (6) Food manufacturing;
- (7) Academe and research institutions;
- (8) Organization or association of community; and
- (9) Non-government organizations (NGOs).

The Commission and the provisional members shall sit *en banc* to approve the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition (PPAN) and for another purpose as may be determined by the Chairperson.

The provisional members shall have the honoraria of Ten Thousand Pesos (PhP10,000.00) or five percent (5%) of their respective basic salaries, whichever is higher per meeting.

SEC. 9. Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition. - A ten-year multi-sectoral and integrated national nutrition plan of action shall be developed and formulated by the Commission in coordination with NGOs and relevant government agencies, such as the DOH, DSWD, and DepEd, among others. The PPAN should be aligned with the Philippine Development Plan (PDP).

In developing the PPAN, the policies, principles, and programs embodied in the PDP (Ambisyon 2040), Food Fortification Law (Republic Act No. 8976), An Act for Salt Iodization Nationwide (Republic Act No. 8172), Nutrition and Dietetics Law of 2016 (Republic Act No. 10862), Masustansiyang Pagkain Para sa Batang Pilipino Act (Republic Act No. 11037), Kalusugan at Nutrisyon ng Mag-Nanay Act (Republic Act No. 11148), and all relevant laws on the nutrition and food security to be enacted hereafter must be considered.

1 The said plan must have measurable targets for ending malnutrition and
2 undernutrition after ten (10) years of its implementation. The PPAN must be concurred
3 in by its provisional members. The PPAN must be submitted to the Office of the
4 President for direction and coordination.

5
6 **SEC. 10. *Nutrition Month.*** – The month of July shall be designated as “Nutrition
7 Month” for the purpose of creating greater awareness among our people on the
8 importance of nutrition. The Commission shall formulate and approve programs and
9 activities for Nutrition Month which should be coordinated across all sectors, whether
10 public or private.

11
12 **SEC. 11. *Donations.*** – The Commission shall be authorized to receive donations,
13 grants, or gifts in whatever form and from whatever sources: *Provided,* That said grants,
14 gifts, or donations shall be administered, obligated, and disbursed in accordance with
15 the terms of the grant or donation and in such manner as the Commission may in its
16 discretion determine.

17
18 **SEC. 12. *Retention of Personnel; Security of Tenure; Upgrading of Positions and***
19 ***Salaries.*** – All existing permanent personnel of the National Nutrition Council shall not
20 be adversely affected by this Act. They shall continue in office and shall not be removed
21 or separated from the service, except for cause as provided by existing laws. Further,
22 the present positions and salaries of personnel shall be upgraded to the level of their
23 counterparts in a department set-up. The Commission shall hire such other personnel
24 as may be necessary for the performance of its functions.

25
26 **SEC. 13. *Transitory Provisions.*** – In consonance with the above provision, the
27 incumbent Executive Director and Deputy Executive Directors shall serve as the first
28 Chairperson and Commissioners upon the effectivity of this Act.

1 **SEC. 14. *Appropriations.*** – The State shall hereby provide the initial amount
2 necessary for the organizational and operational requirements of this Act. Thereafter,
3 the amount necessary to carry the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General
4 Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

5
6 **SEC. 15. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is held unconstitutional
7 or invalid, all other provisions hereof not affected thereby shall remain valid.

8
9 **SEC. 16. *Repealing Clause.*** – Presidential Decree No. 491, as amended by Executive
10 Order No. 234, s. 1987, Administrative Order No. 88, s. 1988, and Executive Order No.
11 427, s. 2005, is hereby repealed. All other laws, executive orders, executive issuances, or
12 letters of instructions, or any part thereof inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions
13 of this Act, are hereby deemed repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

14
15 **SEC. 17. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
16 in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

17
18 *Approved,*