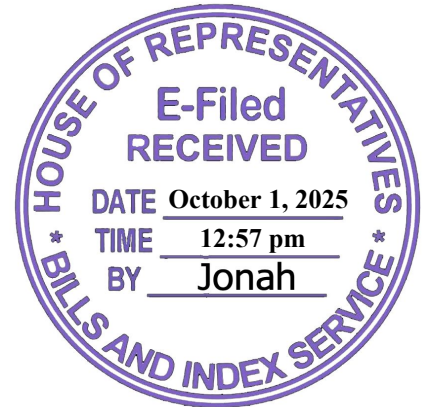


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5046



Introduced by Representative Roman T. Romulo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The right of every Filipino child to adequate food and proper nutrition is enshrined in the Constitution and affirmed in the State's obligation to promote health and protect the welfare of children. Yet, despite existing programs and interventions, malnutrition, hunger, and food insecurity continue to pose enduring challenges in the country.

According to the 2023 Expanded National Nutrition Survey of the Department of Science and Technology – Food and Nutrition Research Institute (DOST-FNRI), 23.6% of Filipino children under five years old are stunted, 5.6% are wasted, and 15.1% are underweight. Among school-aged children (5-10 years old), 17.9% remain stunted, 21.3% are underweight, and 8.4% are wasted, while 5.4% continue to suffer from iron-deficiency anemia. Among adolescents aged 10 to 19 years, 20.7% are stunted, 11.5% are wasted, and 5.8% are anemic. These figures underscore the pressing need not only to sustain, but also to broaden the coverage and extend the duration of the government's national feeding program.

Numerous studies confirm that adequate nutrition during early childhood and adolescence directly improves school performance, enhances concentration, and reduces attrition rates.

Republic Act No. 11037, or the "Masustansyang Pagkain para sa Batang Pilipino Act," institutionalized the national feeding program for undernourished children in public day care, kindergarten, and elementary schools. However, persistence of hunger and undernutrition across wider age groups – including high school students, adolescent girls, children with disabilities, and marginalized learners- demands stronger, more inclusive and sustainable interventions.

Further, by integrating nutrition with education, agriculture, and local governance, this proposed measure aims not only to address hunger and malnutrition, but also to stimulate local economies and reinforce national food security.

Most importantly, the proposed measure mandates the extension of the feeding program by an additional one hundred (100) days, thereby covering a total of two hundred twenty (220) days within a school year, to ensure not merely transient nutritional relief but, more significantly, to engender a visible, sustained, and enduring impact on health, cognitive development, and overall academic performance of the learners.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Romulo', with a stylized flourish at the end.

ROMAN T. ROMULO

Lone District, Pasig City

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5046

Introduced by Representative Roman T. Romulo

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:*

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

7 x x x

8 “(a) Supplemental Feeding Program for Day Care Children. – The
9 DSWD, in coordination with the LGUs concerned, shall implement a
10 supplemental feeding program for undernourished children [with ages
11 three (3) to] UNDER five (5) years OF AGE. The Program shall be
12 administered in [day care centers] CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTERS or
13 in any other facility which can be used for such purpose: *Provided, That*

1 the Program shall include the provision of at least one (1) fortified meal for
2 a period of not less than [one] TWO hundred twenty [(120)] (220) days in
3 a year: *PROVIDED, FURTHER*, THAT THE AFORMENTIONED MEALS
4 SHALL BE ADEQUATELY FUNDED TO ENSURE THAT THE
5 CHILDREN RECEIVE THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF NUTRITION,
6 WITH THE COST SUBJECT TO ADJUSTMENT EVERY YEAR TO
7 ACCOUNT FOR INFLATION OR NUTRITIONAL
8 RECOMMENDATIONS, OR BOTH, AS DETERMINED BY THE FNRI;
9 *PROVIDED, FURTHER*, THAT FOR EACH CITY OR MUNICIPALITY
10 WHERE CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTERS ARE ESTABLISHED AND
11 RECOGNIZED BY THE DSWD, AN ALLOWANCE AMOUNTING UP TO
12 TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL MEAL COST SHALL BE
13 ALLOCATED TOWARDS MEAL DISTRIBUTION AND OTHER
14 OVERHEAD COSTS OF THE PROGRAM; *Provided, [further] FINALLY*,
15 That in the preparation of fortified meals, the DSWD shall work in
16 collaboration with recognized parents' organizations, AS WELL AS THE
17 PARENTS OF THE BENEFICIARIES OF THE PROGRAM, WHENEVER
18 PRACTICABLE;

19 “(b) School-Based Feeding Program. – The DepEd shall implement a
20 school-based feeding program for [undernourished] ALL public school
21 children from kindergarten to grade [six (6)] THREE (3) AND
22 UNDERNOURISHED LEARNERS FROM GRADES FOUR (4) TO
23 TWELVE (12); *Provided*, That the Program shall include the provision of
24 at least one (1) fortified meal to [all undernourished] SUCH public
25 KINDERGARTEN, elementary, AND SECONDARY school children for a
26 period of not less than [one] TWO hundred twenty [(120)] (220) days in a
27 year: *PROVIDED, FURTHER*, THAT THE AFORMENTIONED MEALS
28 SHALL BE ADEQUATELY FUNDED TO ENSURE THAT THE
29 CHILDREN RECEIVE THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF NUTRITION,
30 WITH THE COST SUBJECT TO ADJUSTMENT EVERY YEAR TO
31 ACCOUNT FOR INFLATION OR NUTRITIONAL
32 RECOMMENDATIONS, OR BOTH, AS DETERMINED BY THE FNRI;
33 *PROVIDED, FURTHER*, THAT FOR EACH SCHOOL DIVISION OF THE

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, FURTHER*, 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; *PROVIDED, FINALLY*, THAT CURRENTLY ENROLLED NUTRITIONALLY-AT-RISK ADOLESCENT PREGNANT MOTHERS IN PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS, CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES, AND OTHER MARGINALIZED OR VULNERABLE GROUPS, INCLUDING INDIGENOUS LEARNERS AS DEFINED UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11510, AS WELL AS LEARNERS PARTICIPATING IN REMEDIAL, INTERVENTION, AND SUPPLEMENTARY LEARNING PROGRAMS, SHALL LIKEWISE BE BENEFICIARIES OF THE PROGRAM.

x x x

“(d) Micronutrient [Supplements] SUPPLEMENTATION PROGRAM. – [The NGAs, in coordination with] IN COORDINATION WITH THE DSWD AND DEPED, the DOH[,] shall provide AGE-APPROPRIATE AND NEEDS-BASED micronutrient supplements to the Program beneficiaries, AND IMPLEMENT [including] the use of iodized salt in accordance with Republic Act No. 8172, otherwise known as the “Salt Iodization or ASIN” law; *PROVIDED, THAT* SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS, THE DEPED SHALL ADMINISTER WEEKLY IRON AND FOLIC ACID SUPPLEMENTATION TO FEMALE ADOLESCENTS, INCLUDING ELIGIBLE FEMALE LEARNERS IN THE ALTERNATIVE LEARNING SYSTEM, PRIORITIZING AREAS WITH HIGH PREVALENCE OF ANEMIA AMONG INFANTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN: *PROVIDED, FURTHER*, THAT THE NNC AND DOST-FNRI SHALL COORDINATE CLOSELY WITH THE DEPED IN IDENTIFYING AREAS WITH HIGH PREVALENCE OF ANEMIA FOR EFFECTIVE PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION.

1 x x x

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

17 **SEC. 2.** Section 5 (a) of R.A. 11037 is amended to read, as follows:

18 x x x

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

22 x x x

23 **SEC. 3.** Section 7 of R.A. 11037 is amended to read, as follows:

24 “SEC. 7. *Local Government Assistance.* – LGUs shall assist the NGAs
25 in the efficient and effective implementation of the Program in accordance
26 with Section 4 of this Act and shall be authorized to use a portion of the
27 Special Education Fund (SEF) and/or their twenty percent (20%)
28 development fund AND/OR OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDS as
29 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)."

SEC. 4. After Section 5 of R.A. 11037, insert a new Section 6 provision to read, as follows:

"SEC. 6. *PROCUREMENT OF PRODUCE FROM SMALL SCALE FARMERS.* – THE GOVERNMENT IS HEREBY MANDATED TO ENSURE THAT 30% OR MORE OF THE SUPPLIES NEEDED TO IMPLEMENT THE NATIONAL FEEDING PROGRAM SHALL BE PROCURED FROM SMALL-SCALE PRODUCERS."

SEC. 5. A new Section 7 is inserted to read, as follows:

"SEC. 7. *REGISTRY OF SMALL-SCALE PRODUCERS.* – THE DA SHALL KEEP A LIST OF SMALL-SCALE PRODUCERS. IT SHALL USE THE REGISTRY FOR BASIC SECTORS IN AGRICULTURE (RSBSA), THE REGIONAL FIELD OFFICE (RFO) LIST OF BENEFICIARIES, THE BUREAU OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES' NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR MUNICIPAL FISHERFOLK REGISTRATION (BFAR FISH R) FOR FISHERFOLK, AND ANY OTHER LIST IT MAY DEEM NECESSARY TO KEEP THE REGISTRY UP TO DATE. FURTHERMORE, THE DA IS REQUIRED TO COORDINATE WITH THE DSWD TO CROSS-MATCH AND COMPARE THE REGISTRY WITH THE DSWD'S NATIONAL HOUSEHOLD TARGETING SYSTEM FOR POVERTY REDUCTION (NHTS-PR) TO AVOID DUPLICATION AND REDUNDANCY.

SEC. 6. A new Section 8 is inserted to read, as follows:

"SEC. 8. *SUPPORT SERVICES FOR AGRARIAN REFORM BENEFICIARIES WHO ARE SMALL-SCALE PRODUCERS.* – THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM (DAR) SHALL INSTITUTE THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS FOR AGRARIAN REFORM BENEFICIARIES WHO ARE SMALL-SCALE PRODUCERS AS CONTAINED IN THEIR LIST OF BENEFICIARIES:

1 “A. TRAINING ON PRODUCTION, HARVESTING,
2 PROCUREMENT PROCESS OF THIS ACT, AND ANY OTHER TOPIC
3 THE DAR SEES FIT;

4 “B. SUBSIDIZED FARM EQUIPMENT;

5 “C. FACILITIES FOR STORAGE AND HARVESTING;

6 “D. CAPACITY BUILDING FOR SMALL-SCALE FARMER;

7 “E. ACCESS TO CROP INSURANCE; AND

8 “F. ACCESS TO CREDIT/LOW INTEREST RATES.

9 **SEC. 7.** Sections 6 and 7 of R.A. 11037 are hereby renumbered as Sections 9 and 10.

10 **SEC. 8.** Section 8 of R.A. 11037 is amended to read, as follows:

11 “SEC. [8] 11. Private Sector Participation. – The NGAs shall
12 encourage the participation of the private sector in the Program which
13 shall include, among others, PTAs, private corporations, peoples and
14 nongovernment organizations and such other groups or organizations,
15 both foreign and local, that may want to be partner in whole or in part with
16 the implementation of the Program: *PROVIDED*, THAT THE DEPED
17 SHALL STRENGTHEN LINKAGES WITH MICRO, SMALL, AND
18 MEDIUM ENTERPRISES AND COMMUNITY-BASED AND
19 GRASSROOTS INITIATIVES FROM WHICH DEPED SHALL SOURCE
20 THE MEALS FOR THE PROGRAM, WHENEVER PRACTICABLE;
21 PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT ALL PARTNERSHIPS SHALL ADHERE
22 TO EXISTING GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES ON PUBLIC-PRIVATE
23 PARTNERSHIPS, AND OTHER APPLICABLE RULES AND
24 REGULATIONS.”

25 **SEC. 9.** Sections 9 and 10 of R.A. 11037 are hereby renumbered as Sections 12 and 13.

26 **SEC. 10.** Section 11 of R.A. 11037 is hereby replaced with the following provision:

27 “SEC. 14. *APPROPRIATIONS*. – THE AMOUNT NECESSARY FOR
28 THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT SHALL BE CHARGED AGAINST

1 THE CURRENT YEAR'S APPROPRIATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
2 EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND
3 DEVELOPMENT. THEREAFTER, SUCH SUM AS MAY BE NECESSARY
4 FOR ITS CONTINUED IMPLEMENTATION SHALL BE INCLUDED IN
5 THE ANNUAL GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT.”

6 **SEC. 11.** Section 12 and the succeeding sections of R.A. 11037 are hereby renumbered
7 accordingly.

8 **SEC. 12.** *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from the
9 effectivity of this Act, the DepEd and DSWD shall, in consultation with the DA, DOH,
10 NNC, Food and Nutrition Research Institute, Department of the Interior and Local
11 Government, and concerned LGUs, and such other relevant government agencies,
12 nongovernment organizations, and development partners, promulgate the rules and
13 regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

14 **SEC. 13.** *Repealing Clause.* – Republic Act No. 11037 is hereby amended. All laws,
15 presidential decrees, executive orders, resolutions, rules and regulations or parts
16 thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or
17 amended accordingly.

18 **SEC. 14.** *Separability Clause.* – Should any provision of this Act or any part hereof
19 be declared unconstitutional, the other provisions or parts not affected thereby shall
20 remain in force and effect.

21 **SEC. 15.** *Effectivity.* – Notwithstanding the non-issuance of its implementing rules
22 and regulations, this Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its
23 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,