



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5248



Introduced by **Representative EDUARDO R. RAMA JR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 11037, or the "*Masustansyang Pagkain para sa Batang Pilipino Act*," was a landmark legislation aimed at combating hunger and undernutrition among our youngest learners. Through the establishment of the *National Feeding Program* for the undernourished children in public daycare, kindergarten, and elementary schools, it made a significant impact in improving the health and academic performance of Filipino children.

However, the current law covers learners only until Grade 6, creating a gap in nutritional support. The adolescent years, encompassing junior and senior high school are a crucial period of physical, cognitive, and developmental growth. Undernutrition during this stage can lead to poor school performance and long-term health complications, ultimately hindering a student's potential. While optimal nutrition shall be the driving force for our learners to stay in school longer and to learn more¹.

This proposed legislative measure seeks to rectify this oversight by extending the School-Based Feeding Program to cover undernourished students from kindergarten up to Grade 12. By providing a continuum of nutritional care throughout the entire basic education cycle, to ensure that investment in our children's health and well-being is not cut short. This amendment seeks to

¹ World Bank. *Undernutrition in the Philippines: Scale, Scope and Opportunities for Nutrition Policy and Programming*. (June 15, 2021) <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/philippines/publication/-key-findings-undernutrition-in-the-philippines>

expand the coverage of R.A. 11037, making it a more inclusive and effective tool for human and economic potential.

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



REP. EDUARDO R. RAMA JR.
2nd District, City of Cebu



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AN ACT
EXTENDING THE NATIONAL FEEDING PROGRAM TO
UNDERNOURISHED CHILDREN IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS THEREBY
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT 11037, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
“MASUSTANSYANG PAGKAIN PARA SA BATANG PILIPINO ACT”

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 "*Masustansyang Pagkain para sa*
2 *Batang Pilipino Act*"

3
4 **SECTION 2.** Section 4(b) of Republic Act No. 1 1037, otherwise known as the
5 "*Masustansyang Pagkain para sa Batang Pilipino Act*," is hereby amended to read as follows:

6 **"Section 4(b). School-Based Feeding Program.** — The DepEd shall
7 implement a school-based feeding program for undernourished public
8 school children from kindergarten to grade ~~six (6)~~ **Twelve (12):** *Provided,*
9 That the Program shall include the provision of at least one (1) fortified
10 meal to all undernourished public **kindergarten**, elementary, and
11 **secondary** school children for a period of not less than one hundred
12 twenty (120) days in a year:

13
14 **SECTION 3. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.***-. Within ninety (90) days from the
15 effectivity of this Act, the Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of

1 Health, National Nutrition Council, the Department of Science and Technology thru Food and
2 Nutrition Research Institute, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of the Interior and
3 Local Government, and concerned Local Government Units, and other relevant government
4 agencies, non-government organizations, and development partners shall promulgate their
5 respective rules and regulations for the efficient and effective implementation of this Act.
6

7 **SECTION 4.. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or
8 unconstitutional, the remaining provisions shall continue to be in full force and effect.
9

10 **SECTION 14. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees,
11 administrative orders, rules and regulations, issuances, or parts thereof inconsistent with or
12 contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.
13

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

17 Approved,