



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



House Bill No. 5433

Introduced by CIBAC Party-List Representative
EDUARDO “BRO. EDDIE” C. VILLANUEVA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 11037, otherwise known as the *Masustansyang Pagkain para sa Batang Pilipino Act*, was enacted in 2018 to address hunger and malnutrition among Filipino children, particularly those enrolled in public day care centers and public elementary schools. The law institutionalized a national feeding program to ensure that children from the most vulnerable sectors receive adequate and nutritious meals essential for their physical growth and cognitive development. Since its implementation, the program has yielded encouraging results, including improvements in students’ nutritional status and greater enthusiasm for learning.

Despite these gains, malnutrition and stunting remain among the country’s most pressing health challenges. Nearly one in three Filipino children under five is chronically malnourished, with the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) showing an alarming stunting prevalence of 45.2%, far higher than the national average of 28.8%.¹

Access to existing feeding programs also remains limited. Only about 23% of school children are covered, while many children in day care centers remain unreached.² This gap prevents the program from realizing its full potential and leaves millions of children vulnerable to hunger and malnutrition—conditions that impair cognitive development, weaken the immune system, and reduce learning capacity.

International evidence reinforces this connection. In the 2022 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), which evaluates the competencies of 15-year-old students in mathematics, reading, and science, more than one-third of Filipino

¹ UNICEF (2022), as cited by EDCOM II. Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) – Nutrition and Feeding. Available at: https://edcom2.gov.ph/media/2023/06/EDCOM2_Green-Paper_01-ECCD-Nutrition-and-Feeding_230615.pdf

² Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) and EDCOM II (2024). Behind the Slow Start: An Assessment of Early Childhood Care and Development in the Philippines. Discussion Paper Series No. 2024-04. Available at: <https://pidswebs.pids.gov.ph/CDN/document/pidsdps2404.pdf>

respondents reported missing meals at least once a week due to financial constraints.³ Unsurprisingly, the Philippines ranked 77th out of 81 participating countries,⁴ reflecting how food insecurity undermines educational performance.

To confront these realities, the Department of Education expanded the School-Based Feeding Program beginning School Year 2024–2025, providing hot meals, milk, and other nutritious food products for the entire 220-day school calendar. This extension was grounded in findings that children often regressed into malnutrition when feeding was limited to only 120 days. The longer feeding cycle has shown early success, with 57% of participating students reporting greater enthusiasm for attending school.⁵

This bill seeks to institutionalize and expand these reforms. It proposes amendments to ensure that the feeding program covers all children in public day care centers as well as all learners from Kindergarten to Grade 12 in public schools. By making the expanded program permanent, the measure transforms a temporary intervention into a long-term national commitment.

Investing in the health and nutrition of Filipino children is investing in the nation's future. No child should be forced to learn on an empty stomach. Ensuring year-round access to nutritious meals will not only combat malnutrition but also enhance educational outcomes, strengthen resilience, and secure a healthier future for the next generation.

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


EDUARDO "BRO. EDDIE" C. VILLANUEVA

³ UNICEF Philippines (2023). Food Insecurity and Learning Outcomes: Implications from PISA 2022.

⁴ Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (2023). PISA 2022 Results. Paris: OECD Publishing.

⁵ Department of Education (2025). School-Based Feeding Program: Expanded Implementation Report.



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HOUSE BILL NO. 5433

Introduced by CIBAC Party-List Representative
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AN ACT
EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF THE NATIONAL FEEDING PROGRAM,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11037, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE "MASUSTANSYANG PAGKAIN PARA SA BATANG PILIPINO
ACT," APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **Section 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "*Expanded National*
2 *Feeding Program Act.*"
3

4 **SEC. 2.** Section 4 of Republic Act No. 11037 is hereby amended, to read as
5 follows:
6

7 "Section 4. National Feeding Program. – x x x

8 (a) Supplemental Feeding Program for Day Care Children. - The DSWD, in
9 coordination with the LGUs concerned, shall implement a supplemental feeding
10 program for [~~undernourished~~] children [~~with~~] **FROM** ages three (3) to five (5)
11 years. The Program shall be administered in day care centers or in any other
12 facility which can be used for such purpose: Provided, That the Program shall
13 include the provision of at least one (1) fortified meal for a period of not less than
14 one hundred twenty (120) days in a year: Provided, further, That in the
15 preparation of fortified meals, the DSWD shall work in collaboration with
16 recognized parents' organizations;
17

18 (b) School-Based Feeding Program. - The DepED shall implement a school-
19 based feeding program for [~~undernourished~~] public school [~~children~~] **LEARNERS**
20 from kindergarten to grade [~~six (6)~~] **TWELVE (12)**: Provided, That the Program
21 shall include the provision of at least one (1) fortified meal [~~to all undernourished~~
22 ~~public elementary school children for a period of not less than one hundred (120)~~
23 ~~days in a year~~] **FOR THE ENTIRE ACADEMIC CALENDAR EACH YEAR;**
24

25 x x x"

1 **SEC. 3. Appropriations.** - The amount necessary to carry out the initial
2 implementation of this Act shall be sourced from the Contingent Fund. Thereafter,
3 such sums as may be necessary for the continuous implementation of this Act shall
4 be included in the General Appropriations Act.
5

6 **SEC. 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - Within sixty (60) days from
7 the effectivity of this Act, the DSWD and the DepEd shall, in consultation with relevant
8 government agencies and other stakeholders, promulgate the implementing rules and
9 regulations (IRR) to implement the provisions of this Act.
10

11 Failure of the relevant government agencies to promulgate the IRR within the
12 specified period shall subject the heads of these government agencies to
13 administrative penalties under applicable civil service laws.
14

15 Should the IRR contain provisions that are contrary to this Act, the heads of the
16 government agencies responsible for such provision, when done in bad faith or with
17 gross negligence, shall be held administratively liable.
18

19 **SEC. 5. Separability Clause.** - If any portion or provision of this Act is declared
20 unconstitutional, the remainder hereof or any provisions not affected thereby shall
21 remain in force and effect.
22

23 **SEC. 6. Repealing Clause.** - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
24 order, letter of instruction, rule, or regulation inconsistent with the provisions of this Act
25 is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.
26

27 **SEC. 7. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete
28 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.
29

30 *Approved,*