

TWENTIETH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 5641

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVES LANI MERCADO-REVILLA, BRYAN B. REVILLA AND RAMON JOLO REVILLA III

AN ACT

EXPANDING THE NATIONAL FEEDING PROGRAM TO INCLUDE UNDERNOURISHED CHILDREN IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND MANDATING THE PROCUREMENT FROM SMALL-SCALE FARMERS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL FEEDING PROGRAM, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11037, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “MASUSTANSYANG PAGKAIN PARA SA BATANG PILIPINO ACT”

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines has an obligation to protect and promote the right to nutrition and adequate food under relevant domestic and international laws: 1987 Philippine Constitution; Universal Declaration of Human Rights; International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights; Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women; Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In connection with this, the Philippine government has committed to AmBisyon Natin 2040, which promises a strongly rooted, comfortable, and secure life for every Filipino, where “no one is poor, no one is ever hungry.” President Rodrigo Roa Duterte has, in fact, signed Republic Act (RA) No. 11037, otherwise known as “Masustansyang Pagkain para sa Batang Pilipino Act,” targeting undernourished children in public day care, kindergarten and elementary schools.

Hunger has a correlation to the ability of students to learn. Research demonstrates that children from families who are unsure where their next meal would come from can adversely affect students’ performance by lowering their effort

and classroom attention, and that provision of meals improved the cognitive performance of students by 13% to 16%.¹

Due to unavailability of food, children are forced to drop out of school. It is unfortunate that children from poor families stop going to school because the higher the education level, the steeper is the cost of schooling.² However, school feeding programs may incentivize parents to keep children in school. Families may be better positioned to handle financial challenges with their children being fed at school.³

Like other public school children, secondary students are affected by the unavailability of food which poses as a hindrance to their learning. It is hoped that by expanding RA No. 11037 to include junior and senior high school students, more children will be encouraged to enroll and stay in school.

Likewise, small-scale farmers can benefit from these feeding programs, since it is intended that at least 30% of the produce necessary for making the meals of children be procured from these farmers. This livelihood opportunity will be advantageous to our farmers who are struggling to make “less than P200 a day.”⁴

The authors request the urgent and immediate approval of this bill.


REP. LANI MERCADO-REVILLA
2nd District of Cavite


REP. BRYAN B. REVILLA
AGIMAT Partylist


REP. RAMON JOLO REVILLA III
1st District of Cavite

¹ Afridi, F., Barooah, B., & Somanathan, R. (n.d.). Discussion Paper Series: Hunger and Performance in the Classroom. *IZA Institute of Labor Economics*, (12627). Retrieved February 16, 2023, from <https://repec.iza.org/dp12627.pdf>.

² United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). (2015). *Child Poverty in the Philippines*. Retrieved February 16, 2023, from <https://www.unicef.org/philippines/media/461/file/Child%20Poverty%20in%20the%20Philippines.pdf>

³ Tembon, A. C., & Schultz, L. B. (2015, October 16). *School feeding: A tool for social inclusion*. Retrieved February 16, 2023, from <https://blogs.worldbank.org/education/school-feeding-tool-social-inclusion#:~:text=Many%20school-age%20children%20across%20the%20globe%20depend%20on,a%20long%20history%20as%20a%20social%20protection%20tool>.

⁴ Katigbak, T. (2019, September 17). *Opinion: The plight of Filipino rice farmers*. PhilStar Global. Retrieved February 16, 2023, from <https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2019/09/17/1952474/plight-filipino-rice-farmers>

TWENTIETH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 5641

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVES LANI MERCADO-REVILLA, BRYAN B.
REVILLA AND RAMON JOLO REVILLA III

AN ACT

EXPANDING THE NATIONAL FEEDING PROGRAM TO INCLUDE
UNDERNOURISHED CHILDREN IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND MANDATING
THE PROCUREMENT FROM SMALL-SCALE FARMERS IN THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL FEEDING PROGRAM, AMENDING FOR
THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11037, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
“MASUSTANSYANG PAGKAIN PARA SA BATANG PILIPINO ACT”

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

SECTION 1. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 11037, otherwise known as
“Masustansyang Pagkain Para sa Batang Pilipino Act” is hereby amended to read,
as follows:

SEC. 4. *National Feeding Program.* – The National Feeding Program,
hereinafter referred to as the Program, is hereby established to address
undernutrition among Filipino children.

The Program shall have the following components and coverage:

xxx

(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 school children~~] **PUBLIC**

SCHOOL CHILDREN MENTIONED EARLIER, for a period of not less than one hundred twenty (120) days in a year;

xxx

(f) PROCUREMENT FROM SMALL-SCALE FARMERS. – AT LEAST THIRTY PERCENT (30%) OF THE PRODUCE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE NATIONAL FEEDING PROGRAM SHALL BE PROCURED FROM SMALL-SCALE FARMERS TO BE IDENTIFIED THROUGH A REGISTRY PREPARED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE;

~~[(f)]~~ (g) Gulayan sa Paaralan. – xxx

~~[(g)]~~ (h) Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH). – xxx

~~[(h)]~~ (i) Integrated Nutrition Education, Behavioral Transformation, and Social Mobilization. – xxx

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

SEC. 5. Prioritization in the Program Implementation. – The NGAs shall create a five (5)-year plan to fully implement the Program: *Provided, That* the NGAs concerned shall prioritize the implementation of the Program in the LGUs and public day care or ~~[elementary]~~ schools that meet any of the following criteria:

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

xxx

SECTION 3. 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 4. 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 **COUNCIL FOR THE**

WELFARE OF CHILDREN, 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 5. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or the provision or part not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All other laws, decrees, orders, other issuances, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SECTION 7. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,