



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5838



Introduced by
REPRESENTATIVE MUNIR N. ARBISON, JR.

**AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11037, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE "MASUSTANSYANG PAGKAIN PARA SA
BATANG PILIPINO ACT" APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines faces a persistent challenge in child nutrition, demonstrated by the country's lack of improvement in lowering the prevalence of malnutrition over the past thirty years, ranking fifth in the East Asia and Pacific region with the highest prevalence of stunting, a problem that carried an economic burden of 1.5% of the GDP in 2015. If left unaddressed, stunting and wasting can have lifelong consequences that trap families in cycles of poverty.

While Republic Act No. 11037 established a National Feeding Program, this measure seeks to immediately augment its efficacy by mandating the institutionalized distribution of Nutribuns, which are healthy and fortified, and prepared according to the established standards set by the DOST-FNRI. The bill amends the law to require the DepEd's School-Based Feeding Program (Kindergarten to Grade six (6)) to include Nutribun distribution, and critically, it expands the scope of intervention by requiring the DSWD to include Nutribuns, whenever feasible, in the supplemental feeding for children in Child Development Centers and Supervised Neighborhood Play, as well as in Family Food Packs distributed during disasters.

This two-pronged approach ensures that children receive adequate daily nutrient intake through a proven nutritional intervention, maximizing the impact of the national effort to fight malnutrition across both routine educational settings and emergency relief operations.

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



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*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 the
"Masustansyang Pagkain Para Sa Batang Pilipino Act" shall be 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.

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): Provided, That the
Program shall include the provision of at least one (1) fortified meal
to all undernourished public elementary school children for a
period of not less than one hundred twenty (120) days in a year -;

**PROVIDED FURTHER THAT, THE PROGRAM SHALL
ALSO INCLUDE THE DISTRIBUTION OF NUTRIBUNS TO
PUBLIC SCHOOL CHILDREN FROM KINDERGARTEN TO
GRADE SIX (6). THE NUTRIENTS OF THE NUTRIBUNS**

SHALL BE BASED ON THE STANDARDS SET BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY - FOOD AND NUTRITION RESEARCH INSTITUTE (DOST - FNRI).

xxx."

(h) Integrated Nutrition Education, Behavioral Transformation, and Social Mobilization. - The Program shall be complemented by a public health, nutrition, and values transformation campaign to promote a holistic and integrated approach to health and nutrition education. Orientation-training on the objectives and mechanics of the Program shall be held among personnel of the NGAs and LCDs concerned, parent volunteers and the parent-teachers associations (PTAs) to generate support for the Program. The NGAs concerned shall also endeavor to mobilize community organizations to continue nutrition education outside of the school-; and

(i) THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD) SHALL INCLUDE NUTRIBUNS, WHENEVER FEASIBLE, IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF FAMILY FOOD PACKS TO FAMILIES AFFECTED BY ANY DISASTER TO ENSURE THAT THE CHILDREN SHALL HAVE ADEQUATE DAILY NUTRIENT INTAKE. PROVIDED THAT, NUTRIBUNS, WHENEVER FEASIBLE, SHALL ALSO BE INCLUDED IN THE SUPPLEMENTAL FEEDING OF THE DSWD TO CHILDREN ENROLLED IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTERS AND SUPERVISED NEIGHBORHOOD PLAY."

SEC. 2. Appropriations. - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

SEC. 3. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within sixty (60) calendar days after the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and Department of Education (DepEd) shall formulate the implementing rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 4. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

SEC. 6. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following the completion of its publication either in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,