

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6089



Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE AUDREY KAY T. ZUBIRI**

AN ACT
EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF THE NATIONAL FEEDING PROGRAM TO
INCLUDE SECONDARY SCHOOLS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC
ACT NO. 11037 OR THE “MASUSTANSYANG PAGKAIN PARA SA BATANG
PILIPINO ACT”

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Malnutrition continues to be a major public health concern in the Philippines, affecting children across all age groups and undermining their physical and cognitive development. While Republic Act No. 11037, or the “*Masustansyang Pagkain para sa Batang Pilipino Act*,” has made strides in addressing undernutrition among young learners, recent data from the Department of Science and Technology – Food and Nutrition Research Institute (DOST-FNRI) underscores the need to expand its coverage. The 2023 Expanded National Nutrition Survey revealed that 23.6% of children under five years old are stunted, while 5.6% are wasted and 15.1% are underweight². Alarming, more than 90% of Filipino adolescents have inadequate intake of essential nutrients such as calcium, iron, and vitamin C, and over 80% are insufficiently physically active³. These figures highlight the nutritional vulnerability of secondary school students, who are currently excluded from the national feeding program.

This bill seeks to amend RA 11037 by expanding the School-Based Feeding Program to include undernourished public-school children from Kindergarten to Grade 12. It further expands the covered period of the program to at least one fortified meal daily for a minimum of 180 days per year instead of the original 120 days, with costs adjusted annually based on

² [DOST-FNRI presents the latest PH Nutrition Situation](#)

³ <https://situationofchildren.org/sites/default/files/2023-12/scr-c0102-2023-v.01.pdf>

inflation and nutritional recommendations. The bill also limits overhead expenses to 10% of total meal costs and promotes collaboration with parents' organizations and local small and medium enterprises (SMEs) for meal preparation. Additionally, it strengthens nutrition education and community mobilization to ensure a holistic approach to health and behavioral transformation.

By extending the program to secondary schools, this legislation aims to improve adolescent nutrition, enhance academic performance, and reduce long-term health risks, thereby investing in the future of Filipino youth and national development.



AUDREY KAY T. ZUBIRI
Representative, 3rd District of Bukidnon

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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 No. 11037, otherwise known as the
2 “Masustansyang Pagkain para sa Batang Pilipino Act”, is hereby amended to read as follows:

3
4 “Section 4. National Feeding Program. - The National Feeding Program,
5 hereinafter referred to as the Program, is hereby established to address
6 undernutrition among Filipino children.

7
8 The Program shall have the following components and coverage:

9
10 (a) Supplemental Feeding Program for Day Care Children. - The DSWD,
11 in coordination with the LGUs concerned, shall implement a supplemental feeding
12 program for under nourished children with ages three (3) to five years. The program
13 shall be administered in a day care centers or in any other facility which can be
14 used for such purpose: Provided, That the Program shall include the provision of
15 at least one (1) fortified meal for a period of not less than one hundred [twenty
16 (120)] **EIGHTY (180)** days in a year: Provided, further, That in the preparation of
17 fortified meals, the DSWD shall work in collaboration with recognized parents'
18 organizations;

(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 **KINDERGARTEN**, elementary, **AND SECONDARY** school children for a period of not less than one hundred [twenty (120)] **EIGHTY (180)** days in a year [;], **PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT THE COST OF THE AFOREMENTIONED MEALS SHALL ENSURE THAT SCHOOL CHILDREN RECEIVE THE APPROPRIATE AMOUNT OF NUTRITION, WHICH MAY BE ADJUSTED EVERY YEAR TO ACCOUNT FOR INFLATION AND FOR NUTRITIONAL ADJUSTMENTS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE FNRI: PROVIDED, FURTHERMORE, THAT FOR EACH SCHOOL DIVISION OF DEPED, MEAL CONTRIBUTION AND OTHER OVERHEAD COSTS OF THE PROGRAM SHALL NOT BE MORE THAN TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL MEAL COST: PROVIDED, FINALLY, THAT IN PREPARATION OF FORTIFIED MEALS, THE DEPED SHALL COLLABORATE WITH RECOGNIZED PARENTS' ORGANIZATIONS, AS WELL AS THE PARENTS OF THE BENEFICIARIES OF THE PROGRAM, WHENEVER APPLICABLE;**

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 the personnel of NGAs and LGUs concerned, **PARENTS OF THE INTENDED BENEFICIARIES**, 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.

SEC. 2. Section 5 of the same Act shall be amended as follows:

1
2 xxx

3 “(a) With the highest prevalence of undernutrition and nutrient-deficiency
4 among children aged three (3) years up to grade TWELVE (12) level;”

5
6 **SEC. 3.** Section 8 of the same Act shall be amended as follows:

7
8 “Section 8. Private Sector Participation. The NGAs shall encourage the
9 participation of the private sector in the Program which shall include, among
10 others, PTAs, private corporations, peoples and nongovernment organizations and
11 such other groups or organizations, both foreign and local, that may want to be
12 partner in whole or in part with the implementation of the Program. **PROVIDED,**
13 **THAT THE DEPED SHALL PRIORITIZE ITS LINKAGES WITH SMEs**
14 **AND COMMUNITY-BASED RESOURCES TO SUPPLY THE MEALS**
15 **FOR THE FEEDING PROGRAM, WHENEVER APPLICABLE.”**

16
17 **SEC. 4.** *Separability Clause.* If any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or
18 unconstitutional, the other parts hereof not affected thereby shall remain valid.

19
20 **SEC. 5.** *Repealing Clause.* All laws, acts, presidential decrees, executive orders,
21 administrative orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of
22 this Act are deemed amended, modified or repealed accordingly.

23
24 **SEC. 6.** *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after is publication in
25 the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspaper of general circulation.

26
27 *Approved,*