

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6240



Introduced by **Representative RAYMOND ADRIAN SALCEDA**

AN ACT
MANDATING THE PROCUREMENT FROM SMALL-SCALE PRODUCERS IN
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL FEEDING PROGRAM,
AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11037, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE “MASUSTANSYANG PAGKAIN PARA SA BATANG PILIPINO
ACT”

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The National Feeding Program under Republic Act No. 11037, or the *Masustansyang Pagkain Para sa Batang Pilipino Act*, was enacted to ensure that no Filipino child goes to school hungry. It stands as one of our strongest commitments to breaking the vicious cycle of malnutrition, poor learning outcomes, and intergenerational poverty.

Yet, even as the Program strives to secure nutritious meals for our children, it has not fully realized another equally important objective: leveraging the government’s massive feeding requirements to uplift our small farmers and fisherfolk—the very producers who grow our food but remain among the poorest sectors of our society.

Every year, government feeding programs require billions of pesos’ worth of vegetables, rice, fish, eggs, and other agricultural goods. However, because procurement often favors larger suppliers with established logistical capability, small-scale producers—who account for the majority of our farming population—are left unable to benefit from this stable and guaranteed market. This is a missed opportunity.

If even a portion of the food that the government buys anyway is sourced directly from our small farmers and fisherfolk, we can significantly increase their incomes, stabilize demand for their produce, and integrate them into reliable value chains. This is how we link social protection with rural development. This is how we make feeding programs not just a cost to the government, but an investment in our agricultural base.

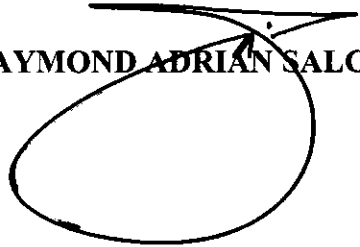
This bill, therefore, mandates that at least 30% of all supplies for the National Feeding Program be procured from small-scale producers. It further establishes a unified and regularly updated

registry of qualified suppliers using existing databases such as the RSBSA, the BFAR FishR, and the NHTS-PR to ensure accuracy, coordination, and the avoidance of duplication.

Beyond procurement, the measure strengthens support for agrarian reform beneficiaries and other small-scale farmers by providing training, subsidized equipment, access to credit, crop insurance, and postharvest facilities. The objective is not only to give them a market, but to build their capacity to consistently meet that market's requirements.

This is a food security measure. This is a livelihood measure. This is a poverty reduction measure. And this is an efficient measure—because every peso that the government spends feeding our children should also nourish the local economies that sustain their families.

In line with our policy direction to build a stronger, more inclusive agricultural sector, and consistent with the State's duty to prioritize marginalized producers in public procurement, the immediate 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. – Republic Act No. 11037, otherwise known as the “Masustansyang Pagkain Para sa Batang Pilipino” Act is hereby amended by inserting the following provisions after Section 7 of the said Act:

SECTION 8. PROCUREMENT OF PRODUCE FROM SMALL SCALE PRODUCERS – THE GOVERNMENT IS, HEREBY, MANDATED TO ENSURE THAT 30% OR MORE OF THE SUPPLIES NEEDED TO IMPLEMENT THE NATIONAL FEEDING PROGRAM ARE PROCURED FROM SMALL-SCALE PRODUCERS.

SECTION 9. REGISTRY OF SMALL-SCALE PRODUCERS – THE DA SHALL KEEP AND REGULARLY UPDATE A LIST OF SMALL-SCALE PRODUCERS. IT SHALL USE THE REGISTRY FOR BASIC SECTORS IN AGRICULTURE (RSBSA), THE REGIONAL FIELD OFFICE (RFO) LIST OF BENEFICIARIES, THE BUREAU OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES’ NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR MUNICIPAL FISHERFOLK REGISTRATION (BFAR FISH R) FOR FISHERFOLK, AND ANY OTHER LIST IT MAY DEEM NECESSARY TO KEEP THE REGISTRY UP TO DATE. FURTHERMORE, THE DA IS REQUIRED TO COORDINATE WITH THE DSWD TO CROSS-MATCH AND COMPARE THE REGISTRY WITH THE DSWD’S NATIONAL HOUSEHOLD TARGETING SYSTEM FOR POVERTY REDUCTION (NHTS-PR) TO AVOID DUPLICATION AND REDUNDANCY.

SECTION 10. SUPPORT SERVICES FOR AGRARIAN REFORM

BENEFICIARIES WHO ARE SMALL-SCALE PRODUCERS – THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM (DAR) SHALL INSTITUTE THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS FOR AGRARIAN REFORM BENEFICIARIES WHO ARE SMALL-SCALE PRODUCERS AS CONTAINED IN THEIR LIST OF BENEFICIARIES:

- A. TRAINING ON PRODUCTION, HARVESTING, PROCUREMENT PROCESS OF THIS ACT, AND ANY OTHER TOPIC THE DAR SEES FIT;
- B. SUBSIDIZED FARM EQUIPMENT;
- C. FACILITIES FOR STORAGE AND HARVESTING;
- D. CAPACITY BUILDING FOR SMALL-SCALE FARMER;
- E. ACCESS TO CROP INSURANCE;
- F. ACCESS TO CREDIT/LOW INTEREST RATES.

SEC. 2. – Section 8 of Republic Act No. 11037 is hereby renumbered as Section 11, and all succeeding sections of the same Act are hereby renumbered accordingly.

SEC. 3. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DA and the DAR, in consultation with DSWD, DEPED, the National Nutrition Council (NNC), the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI), the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and such other relevant government agencies, nongovernment organizations, and development partners, shall promulgate their respective rules and regulations for the efficient and effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 4. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 5. *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. 6. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,