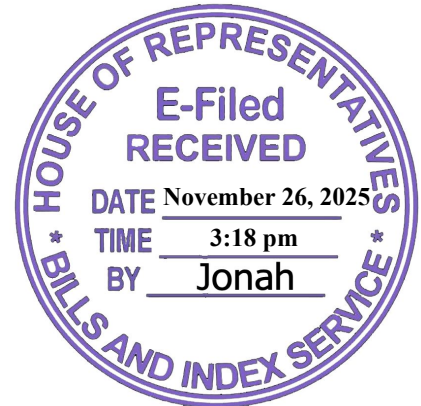




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

20th CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6419



Introduced by Representative SITTIE SHAHARA “BAI DIMPLE” I. MASTURA

AN ACT

EXPANDING THE NATIONAL FEEDING PROGRAM TO INCLUDE UNDERNOURISHED CHILDREN FROM GRADES 7 TO 12, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11037 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING A NATIONAL FEEDING PROGRAM FOR UNDERNOURISHED CHILDREN IN PUBLIC DAY CARE, KINDERGARTEN, AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS TO COMBAT HUNGER AND UNDERNUTRITION AMONG FILIPINO CHILDREN”, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the Name of God, the Beneficent, the Merciful

Republic Act No. 11037 otherwise known as the “Masustansyang Pagkain Para Sa Batang Pilipino Act” was enacted on June 20, 2018 to combat hunger and undernutrition among Filipino children, however the law provided for a supplemental feeding program for daycare children aged 3 to 5 years only, and a school-based feeding program for kindergarten to Grade 6.

This bill therefore seeks to expand the coverage of the National Feeding Program to include students from Grades 7 to 12 given that the families to which these students belong face innumerable food security challenges as well due to financial difficulties.

This representation is also introducing a mandatory review of the implementation of RA 11037 in aid of legislation, at least once every three (3) years and / or as often as it may deem necessary for government to be more responsive and accountable.

The Department of Education (DepEd), implements the School-Based Feeding Program (SBFP) for more than 2.1 million undernourished children while the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) is tasked to implement the Supplementary Feeding Program in Child Development Centers (CDC) and Supervised Neighborhood Play (SNP) areas.

After close to seven (7) years since its enactment, flaws in its implementation have turned the National Feeding Program into a temporary relief, instead as a long-term solution to alleviate hunger, improve school attendance, advance development and promote their well-being.

In 2023, the Commission on Audit flagged undelivered meals, expired food items, and substandard milk supplies; and in some cases, spoiled or moldy food were distributed.

Compounding these concerns is the quality of food and delays in delivery despite double digit increases in budget allocations.

Without proper oversight, quality control and efficient resource allocation, the National Feeding Program will continue to fail our children and future generations of Filipinos this important piece of legislation intends to address.

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



SITTIE SHAHARA "BAI DIMPLE" I. MASTURA

Representative

Maguindanao del Norte with Cotabato City
Lone District



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

SECTION 1. Section 4(b) of Republic Act No. 11037, otherwise known as the "Masustansyang Pagkain para sa Batang Pilipino Act ", is hereby amended to read as follows:

x x x

"Section 4(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, and **SECONDARY** school children for a period of not less than one hundred twenty (120) 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 SHALL BE ADJUSTED EVERY YEAR TO ACCOUNT FOR INFLATION AND FOR NUTRITIONAL ADJUSTMENTS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE FOOD AND NUTRITION RESEARCH INSTITUTE (FNRI): PROVIDED, FURTHERMORE, THAT FOR EACH SCHOOL DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DEPED), MEAL DISTRIBUTION AND**

OTHER OVERHEAD COSTS OF THE PROGRAM SHALL NOT BE MORE THAN TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL MEAL COST: PROVIDED, FINALLY, THAT IN THE PREPARATION OF FORTIFIED MEALS, THE DEPED SHALL COLLABORATE WITH RECOGNIZED PARENTS' ORGANIZATIONS, AS WELL AS THE PARENTS OF THE BENEFICIARIES OF THE PROGRAM, WHENEVER PRACTICABLE."

X X X

(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, [parent volunteers] **PARENTS OF THE 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. **THE NGAs AND THE LGUs CONCERNED SHALL REGULARLY PROVIDE THE PARENTS OF PROGRAM BENEFICIARIES WITH TAILORED HEALTH AND NUTRITION EDUCATION WORKSHOPS. PARENTS OF PROGRAM BENEFICIARIES SHALL BE REQUIRED TO ATTEND SUCH WORKSHOPS AS DETERMINED BY THE CONCERNED AUTHORITY.**

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

X X X

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

X X X

SEC. 3. Section 7 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

SEC. 7. Local Government Assistance. – LGUs shall assist the NGAs in the efficient and effective implementation of the Program in accordance with Section 4 of this Act and shall be authorized to use a portion of the Special Education Fund (SEF) and / or their twenty percent (20%) development fund **AND / OR OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDS** as provided for in Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the “Local Government Code of 1991”, as amended, to augment the appropriations available under the General Appropriations Act (GAA).”

SEC. 4. Section 8 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

SEC. 8. Private Sector Participation. – The NGAs shall encourage the participation of the private sector in the Program which shall include, among others, PTAs, private corporations, peoples and non-government organizations and such other groups or organizations, both foreign and local, that may want to be partner in whole or in part with the implementation of the Program: **PROVIDED, THAT THE DEPED SHALL STRENGTHEN LINKAGES WITH MICRO, SMALL, AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES AND COMMUNITY-BASED AND GRASSROOTS INITIATIVES FROM WHICH DEPED SHALL SOURCE THE MEALS FOR THE PROGRAM, WHENEVER PRACTICABLE."**

SEC. 5. 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 (GAA).

SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Education **AND THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT** shall, in consultation with the National Nutrition Council, the Food and Nutrition Research Institute, 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.

SEC. 7. Mandatory Review. – Congress shall undertake a mandatory review of this Act at least once every three (3) years and as often as it may deem necessary, with the primary objective of providing a more proactive response and accountable implementation.

SEC. 8. Repealing Clause. – Republic Act No. 11037 is hereby amended. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, resolutions, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 9. Separability Clause. – Should any provision of this Act or any part hereof be declared unconstitutional, the other provisions or parts not affected thereby shall remain valid and effective.

SEC. 10. – Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.