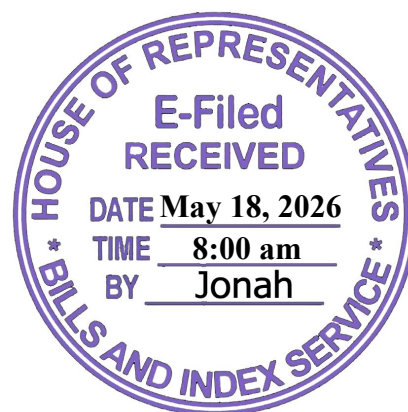


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9269



**Introduced by AKBAYAN Representatives PERCIVAL V. CENDAÑA,
JOSE MANUEL TADEO "CHEL" I. DIOKNO, and DADAH KIRAM ISMULA and
Dinagat Islands Representative KAKA BAG-AO**

**AN ACT CREATING THE NATIONAL NUTRITION COMMISSION,
REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 491,
ENTITLED "CREATING A NATIONAL NUTRITION COUNCIL AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES"**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Malnutrition remains a persistent and multifaceted public health challenge in the Philippines, affecting millions of Filipinos—particularly children, pregnant women, and other vulnerable sectors. Despite decades of government intervention under Presidential Decree No. 491, the country continues to face a "triple burden of malnutrition," characterized by the stunting and wasting, micronutrient deficiencies, and rising rates of overweight and obesity¹.

Recent data underscore the urgency of strengthening the country's nutrition governance framework. According to the 2023 Expanded National Nutrition Survey of the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI), 23.6% of Filipino children under five years old are stunted, indicating chronic malnutrition that adversely affects physical and cognitive development². Meanwhile, 5.6% of children under five suffer from wasting, a life-threatening form of acute malnutrition, while 15.1% are underweight³.

In absolute terms, the burden remains substantial. It is estimated that around 630,000 Filipino children are affected by wasting, reflecting the continuing scale of

¹ United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Philippines, Health and Nutrition Situation in the Philippines.

² Department of Science and Technology – Food and Nutrition Research Institute (DOST-FNRI), 2023 Expanded National Nutrition Survey (ENNS).

³ Ibid.

acute undernutrition in the country⁴. Malnutrition also contributes significantly to child mortality and long-term productivity losses, with poor nutrition linked to preventable deaths among young children⁵.

Food insecurity further exacerbates the situation. Data show that 31.4% of Filipino households experience moderate to severe food insecurity, limiting access to adequate and nutritious food and reinforcing cycles of malnutrition⁶.

Despite some progress, improvements in nutrition outcomes have been slow and uneven. The persistence of malnutrition is driven by structural factors such as poverty, inequality, limited access to health and nutrition services, and weak coordination among government agencies and local government units. As noted in governance assessments, nutrition indicators in the Philippines have shown minimal improvement over the years, highlighting systemic gaps in implementation⁷.

Presidential Decree No. 491, enacted in 1974, created the National Nutrition Council (NNC) as the country's primary policy-making and coordinating body on nutrition. While it has contributed significantly to advancing nutrition programs, the increasing complexity, scale, and persistence of malnutrition necessitate a stronger, more empowered, and better-resourced institution.

This proposed measure seeks to create the National Nutrition Commission, a restructured and strengthened body that will replace the existing council. The proposed Commission shall serve as the central authority for nutrition governance, with expanded mandates to formulate policies, ensure effective implementation, and enforce accountability across all levels of government.

The Commission will be tasked to:

- Formulate and implement a comprehensive and integrated national nutrition policy;
- Strengthen coordination among national government agencies, local government units, and stakeholders;
- Establish robust monitoring and evaluation systems to track outcomes and ensure accountability;

⁴ Lyle Daryll Casas & Valerie Gilbert Ulep, What Determines the Decline of Wasting in the Philippines, 139 Nutrition 112884 (2025).

⁵ Louise Maureen Simeon, Price of Malnutrition: Philippines Loses P496 Billion Each Year, Phil. Star (Jan. 30, 2025), <https://www.philstar.com/business/2025/01/30/2417987/price-malnutrition-philippines-loses-p496-billion-each-year>.

⁶ Persistent Hunger Affects 3-in-10 Filipino Households—DOST-FNRI, Bus.World (July 11, 2025), <https://www.bworldonline.com/health/2025/07/11/685269/persistent-hunger-affects-3-in-10-filipino-households-dost-fnri/>

⁷ UNICEF Philippines, Raising the Bar: Improving Nutrition Governance in the Philippines.

- Mobilize resources and foster partnerships with the private sector, civil society, and international organizations; and
- Address both persistent and emerging nutrition challenges through evidence-based and sustainable interventions.

By repealing Presidential Decree No. 491 and establishing the National Nutrition Commission, this bill aims to modernize and institutionalize nutrition governance in the Philippines. It seeks to ensure that nutrition policies are effectively implemented, adequately funded, and responsive to the evolving needs of the population.

Ultimately, the enactment of this measure is a critical step toward reducing malnutrition, improving health outcomes, enhancing human capital development, and securing a healthier and more productive future for all Filipinos.

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



PERCIVAL V. CENDAÑA
Akbayan Representative



JOSE MANUEL TADEO
"CHEL" I. DIOKNO
Akbayan Representative



DADAN KIRAM ISMULA
Akbayan Representative



KAKA BAG-AO
Dinagat Islands Representative

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9269

**Introduced by AKBAYAN Representatives PERCIVAL V. CENDAÑA,
JOSE MANUEL TADEO "CHEL" I. DIOKNO, and DADAH KIRAM ISMULA and
Dinagat Islands Representative KAKA BAG-AO**

**AN ACT CREATING THE NATIONAL NUTRITION COMMISSION,
REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 491,
ENTITLED "CREATING A NATIONAL NUTRITION COUNCIL AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES"**

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known and referred to as the "National
2 Nutrition Commission Act."
3

4 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – The State recognizes nutrition as a basic human
5 right and guarantees the right to adequate food, which should be implemented by the
6 government in an integrated manner.
7

8 **SEC. 3. *National Nutrition Commission.*** — There is hereby created a National
9 Nutrition Commission, ("Commission"), which shall be attached to the Office of the
10 President. The Commission shall be the primary policy-making, coordinating,
11 implementing and advisory body on nutrition and food concerns.
12

13 **SEC. 4. *Powers and Functions of the Commission.*** – The Commission shall have
14 the following powers and functions:

- 15 a) Formulate national food and nutrition policies, programs, strategies, activities,
16 and projects, and serve as the policy, coordinating and advisory body on food,
17 nutrition and health concerns;
18 b) Supervise, coordinate, monitor, and evaluate the implementation of its
19 programs, projects, and activities undertaken by all agencies and
20 instrumentalities of both the government and private sector concerning
21 nutrition and food.
22 c) Recommend to Congress measures to effectively promote the full realization of
23 the right to nutrition and adequate food, and the harmonization of existing laws

- 1 and issuances addressing food, nutrition and health concerns through the
2 review of relevant administrative and legislative frameworks;
- 3 d) Conduct investigations upon all matters relating to the enforcement of the right
4 to nutrition, health, and adequate food, and facilitate access for individuals and
5 groups to legal assistance through coordination with appropriate government
6 and non-government legal aid agencies to better assert the progressive
7 realization of their abovementioned rights;
- 8 e) Call on any department, bureau, office, agency and other instrumentalities of
9 the government for assistance in the form of personnel, facilities and resources
10 as the need arises;
- 11 f) Provide technical assistance to increase competencies and capabilities of
12 stakeholders through the conduct of public education, capacity building, skills
13 development and advocacy;
- 14 g) Coordinate the release of funds, loans, and grants from government
15 organizations and non-government organizations;
- 16 h) Provide monetary and non-monetary incentives to nutrition champions by
17 establishing rewards and recognition system;
- 18 i) Establish a continuing program for information dissemination and awareness;
19 and
- 20 j) Exercise such other powers and functions as are necessary for the
21 implementation of this Act.
22

23 **SEC. 5. *Composition of the Commission.*** – The Commission shall be headed by a
24 Chairperson and two (2) Commissioners, all of whom shall be appointed by the
25 President for a term of six (6) years, without prejudice to one reappointment. They
26 shall continue to hold office until their successors have been appointed. Appointments
27 to a vacancy that occurs before the expiration of the term of a Chairperson or
28 Commissioner shall cover only the unexpired portion of the term of the predecessor.
29 At the expiration of the term of the Chairperson or in case of vacancy, the more senior
30 of the Commissioners shall temporarily assume and perform the duties and functions
31 of the Chairperson until a permanent Chairperson is appointed by the President.
32

33 The Commission shall appoint its officers and employees in accordance with the Civil
34 Service law, rules and regulations.
35

36 **SEC. 6. *The Chairperson and the Commissioners.*** – The Chairperson and the
37 Commissioners of the Commission must be Filipino citizens, with at least ten (10) years
38 of experience in the fields of food security, good nutrition promotion, and mitigation
39 of hunger, and malnutrition, at least thirty-five (35) years of age, and of good moral
40 character. The Chairperson, together with at least one (1) commissioner, must hold a
41 valid license to practice medicine in the Philippines.
42

43 The Chairperson and Commissioners shall receive annual compensation and shall be
44 entitled to other benefits and privileges provided under existing laws for a Department
45 Secretary and Department Undersecretaries, respectively. They shall not, during their
46 tenure, hold any other office or employment, or in the active management or control
47 of any business which, in any way, may affect the functions of their office.
48

SEC. 7. *Advisory Board.* - There shall be constituted an Advisory Board which shall meet with the Commission at least twice a year, or more frequently as deemed necessary by the Chairperson to assist it with its policies and plans.

The Board shall be composed of a representative each from the following offices or agencies:

- a) Department of Health - Chairperson
- b) Department of Agriculture - Vice-Chairperson
- c) Department of Agrarian Reform
- d) Department of Education
- e) Department of the Interior and Local Government
- f) Department of Social Welfare and Development
- g) Department of Budget and Management
- h) Department of Science and Technology
- i) Department of Trade and Industry
- j) Commission on Human Rights
- k) National Anti-Poverty Commission
- l) Council for the Welfare of Children
- m) National Economic and Development Authority
- n) National Food Authority
- o) Philippine Statistics Authority
- p) League of Province of the Philippines
- q) League of Cities of the Philippines
- r) League of Municipalities of the Philippines
- s) Nutrition Foundation of the Philippines
- t) Nutrition Center of the Philippines

The members of the Advisory Board shall receive per diem for actual attendance in board meetings and reimbursement for actual and reasonable expenses and incentives as authorized by the Commission.

SEC. 8. *Composition of the Secretariat.* - The Commission shall establish a secretariat to be headed by an Executive Director, who must be a natural born citizen of the Philippines; at least thirty-five (35) years of age on the day of the appointment; holder of a college degree; with at least five (5) years of executive and management experience; with considerable exposure to food security, good nutrition promotion, and mitigation of hunger, and malnutrition; and, a person of good moral character: Provided, That he or she shall be a career officer.

SEC. 9. *Nutrition Offices in Local Government Units.* — To ensure the effective, sustainable, and coordinated implementation of nutrition programs at the sub-national level, every province, city, and municipality shall establish or designate a Nutrition Office within its existing local government structure and organizational framework. Local government units (LGUs) shall ensure the provision of adequate institutional, financial, technical, and human resource support necessary for the operation of such offices.

1 The Provincial Nutrition Office shall be headed by a Provincial Nutrition Action Officer
2 (PNAO), with the assistance of a Provincial Nutrition Coordinator and such other
3 personnel as may be necessary. The City/Municipal Nutrition Office shall be headed
4 by a City/Municipal Nutrition Action Officer (C/MNAO), supported by an adequate staff
5 complement.

7 In organizing and staffing said offices, LGUs shall integrate and maximize existing
8 personnel, facilities, and administrative infrastructure, and shall ensure that sufficient
9 resources are made available for the performance of nutrition functions and delivery
10 of nutrition services.

11 Plantilla positions and qualification standards for personnel composing said offices
12 shall be determined by the appropriate Commission in consultation with the Civil
13 Service Commission and the Department of Budget and Management, and shall be
14 funded through the General Appropriations Act and/or local government budget
15 allocations.

17 **SEC. 10. *Role of Barangay Nutrition Scholars.*** – Barangay Nutrition Scholars
18 (BNS) shall form part of the local nutrition human resource development and
19 workforce strengthening strategy. LGUs shall provide mechanisms for the continuing
20 engagement, training, career development, and professional advancement of BNS as
21 part of the local nutrition system.

23 To strengthen continuity and institutional capacity in nutrition governance, LGUs, in
24 coordination with the appropriate national government agencies, shall establish a
25 ladderized development program for Barangay Nutrition Scholars, including
26 opportunities for competency upgrading, scholarship support, technical certification,
27 and professional education that may qualify them for appointment or promotion to
28 municipal, city, or provincial nutrition positions, including City/Municipal Nutrition
29 Action Officer and Provincial Nutrition Action Officer positions, subject to existing civil
30 service laws, rules, and regulations.

32 **Sec. 11. *Research and Policy Development Support.*** — The Food and Nutrition
33 Research Institute of the Department of Science and Technology, as well as other
34 agencies of government and private entities which are performing nutrition research,
35 shall cooperate with the Commission for research and policy development.

37 **SEC. 12. *Donations.*** - The Commission shall be authorized to receive donations,
38 grants, or gifts in whatever form and from whatever sources: Provided, That said
39 grants, gifts or donations shall be administered, obligated and disbursed in accordance
40 with the terms of the grant or donation and in such manner as the Commission may
41 in its discretion determine.

43 Any donation, contribution, bequest, and grant which may be made to the Commission
44 shall constitute as allowable deduction from the income of the donor for income tax
45 purposes and shall be exempt from donor's tax, subject to such conditions as provided
46 under the National Internal Revenue Code, as amended.

1 **SEC. 13. *Transitory Provisions.*** - The National Nutrition Council is reconstituted as
2 the National Nutrition Commission. Such personnel, properties, assets and liabilities,
3 functions and responsibilities of the Council are hereby transferred to or absorbed by
4 the Commission. Incumbent officials and employees shall continue to exercise their
5 respective functions and responsibilities with the corresponding benefits and
6 privileges.

7
8 The incumbent Executive Director and Deputy Executive Directors shall serve as the
9 first Chairperson and Commissioners until formally appointed by the President in
10 accordance with Section 5. Thereafter, the Chairperson shall appoint the Commission's
11 new Executive Director and Deputy Executive Directors.

12
13 Consistent with the reconstitution of the National Nutrition Council into a Commission,
14 the present positions and salaries of personnel shall be upgraded to the level of their
15 counterparts in a department set-up.

16
17 The Commission shall recruit or employ such other personnel as may be necessary for
18 the performance of its functions.

19
20 **SEC. 14. *Appropriations.*** — The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of
21 this Act, with the exception of Section 9, shall be charged to the current fiscal year
22 appropriations of the National Nutrition Council. Thereafter, such sums as may be
23 necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual
24 General Appropriations Act.

25
26 **SEC. 15. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** — Within sixty (60) days from
27 the appointment of the Chairperson and Commissioners, the Commission, in
28 coordination with the members of the Advisory Board, shall promulgate the necessary
29 rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

30
31 **SEC. 16. *Separability Clause.*** - If any section or provision of this Act is held
32 unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining sections or provisions not affected thereby
33 shall continue to be in full force and effect.

34
35 **SEC. 17. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and
36 regulations, issuance or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed
37 or modified accordingly.

38
39 **SEC. 18. *Effectivity Clause.*** -This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
40 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general
41 circulation.

Approved,