

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 10413



Introduced by **Representative JEFFREY SORIANO**

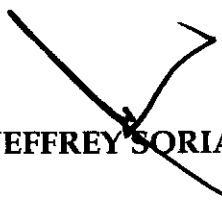
EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish the National Nutrition Commission as an independent commission attached to the Office of the President. It expands the Commission's powers to formulate national nutrition policies, coordinate multisectoral interventions, oversee program implementation, and develop a long-term Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition aligned with national development objectives.

Despite existing nutrition laws and programs, malnutrition, food insecurity, and poor coordination among implementing agencies continue to impede the country's human capital development. The current institutional structure limits the capacity of the National Nutrition Council to effectively coordinate government agencies, local government units, and stakeholders in addressing nutrition challenges through an integrated, whole-of-government approach.

This bill transforms the National Nutrition Council into the National Nutrition Commission with enhanced organizational authority, establishes a permanent leadership structure, institutionalizes a ten-year Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition, strengthens inter-agency and stakeholder coordination, and ensures sustained funding and policy oversight to improve the delivery of nutrition and food security programs nationwide.

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


HON. JEFFREY SORIANO

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING 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:

Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Nutrition Act of the Philippines*”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote and promote the right of every Filipino to health through adequate, accessible, affordable, safe, and nutritious food, and to adopt a comprehensive and integrated approach to nutrition and food security as essential components of national development.

Towards this end, the State shall ensure the formulation of evidence-based policies, the efficient coordination of national and local nutrition programs, and the prevention and elimination of all forms of malnutrition. Further, the State shall be guided by the principles embodied in the Constitution, and the Philippines’ international commitments, including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Convention on the Eradication of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

a. Food Security refers to an incidence where people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life;

b. Hunger refers to a status of an individual whose food intake regularly provides less than their minimum energy requirements;

c. Malnutrition refers to the lack of proper nutrition, caused by not having enough to eat, not eating enough of the right things, or being unable to use the food that one does at;

d. Non-Government Organizations refer to non-stock, non-profit organizations duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission, focusing on the upliftment of the basic or disadvantaged sectors of society by providing advocacy, training, community organizing, research, access to resources, and other similar activities, as defined in Republic Act (RA) No. 8425, otherwise known as the "*Social Reform and Poverty Alleviation Act*";

e. Nutrition refers to the process of providing or obtaining the food necessary for health and growth; and

f. Urban Poor refers to individuals or families in urban areas with incomes falling below the poverty line as defined by the National Statistical Coordination Board.

SEC. 4. *Renaming of the National Nutrition Council.* – The nomenclature of the National Nutrition Council (NNC) which was established pursuant to Presidential Decree (PD) No. 491, as amended, is hereby changed to the "*National Nutrition Commission*", hereinafter referred to as the "Commission", which shall be attached to the Office of the President for policy and program coordination.

SEC. 5. *Composition of the Commission.* – The Commission shall be headed by a Chairperson with the rank of Cabinet Secretary and two (2) Commissioners with the rank of Undersecretary. The Chairperson and the Commissioners shall be citizens and residents of the Philippines, of good moral character, of recognized probity and independence, and must have distinguished themselves professionally in public, civic, or academic service in the fields of health and nutrition. They must have been in the active practice of their professions for at least ten (10) years.

SEC. 6. *Terms of Office.* – The term of office of the Chairperson and the Commissioners shall be six (6) years without reappointment. Of the first set of appointees, the Chairperson and first commissioner appointed shall hold office for six (6) years and the second commissioner appointed shall serve for a term of four (4) years. In case a vacancy occurs before the expiration of the term of office, the appointment to such vacancy shall only be for the unexpired term of the predecessor. The Chairperson and the Commissioners shall enjoy the security of tenure and shall not be suspended or removed from office, except for just cause as provided by law. At the expiration of the term of the Chairperson or in case of vacancy, the most senior of the Commissioners shall temporarily assume and perform the duties and functions of the Chairperson until a permanent Chairperson is appointed by the President.

SEC. 7. *Powers, Functions, and Responsibilities of the Commission.* – The powers, functions, and responsibilities of the Commission are as follows:

a. To formulate an integrated and multi-sectoral national policy, programs, activities, and projects on nutrition and food to ensure good nutrition, eliminate hunger, and food security;

b. To supervise, coordinate, monitor, and evaluate the implementation of its programs, projects, and activities undertaken by all agencies and instrumentalities of both the government and private sector concerning nutrition and food. It shall coordinate with the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to ensure proper nutrition and food during emergencies and disasters;

c. To provide technical assistance to increase the competencies and capabilities of stakeholders and health workers through the conduct of public education, capacity building, skills development, and advocacy;

d. To establish a continuing program for information dissemination and awareness;

e. To create and maintain a system for nutrition surveillance with a gender perspective;

f. To coordinate the release of public funds for nutrition and food in accordance with the approved projects, programs, and activities;

g. To coordinate all requests for loans and grants by the government agencies involved in the nutrition and food program;

h. To provide monetary and non-monetary incentives to nutrition champions by establishing a rewards and recognition system; and

i. To call on any department, bureau, agency, and other instrumentalities of the government for assistance in the form of personnel, resources, and facilities as the need arises.

SEC. 8. *Provisional Members and Linkages.* – The Commission, upon call, shall have the support, assistance, and coordination of the following provisional members:

a. Undersecretaries of the following government bodies:

i. Department of Health (DOH);

ii. Department of Agriculture;

iii. Department of the Interior and Local Government;

- iv. Department of Education (DepEd);
 - v. DSWD;
 - vi. Department of Trade and Industry;
 - vii. Department of Labor and Employment;
 - viii. Department of Science and Technology;
 - ix. Department of Budget and Management; and
 - x. Department of Economy, Planning, and Development;
- b. Presidents of the Leagues of Local Government Units:
- i. League of Provinces;
 - ii. League of Cities;
 - iii. League of Municipalities; and
 - iv. Liga ng mga Barangay;
- c. Maximum of three (3) representatives from any of the following private sector:
- i. Health and nutrition professional organizations;
 - ii. Farmer and fisherfolk;
 - iii. Women;
 - iv. Children;
 - v. Urban poor;
 - vi. Food manufacturing;
 - vii. Academe and research institutions;
 - viii. Organization or association of community; and
 - ix. Non-government organizations (NGOs).

The Commission and the provisional members shall sit en banc to approve the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition (PPAN) and for another purpose as may be determined by the Chairperson.

The provisional members shall have the honoraria of Ten thousand pesos (Php 10,000.00) or five percent (5%) of their respective basic salaries, whichever is higher per meeting.

SEC. 9. *Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition.* – A ten-year multi-sectoral and integrated national nutrition plan of action shall be developed and formulated by the Commission in coordination with NGOs and relevant government agencies, such as the DOH, DSWD, and DepEd, among others. The PPAN should be aligned with the Philippine Development Plan (PDP).

In developing the PPAN, the policies, principles, and programs embodied in the PDP (Ambisyon 2040); RA No. 8976, otherwise known as the “*Philippine Food Fortification Act of 2000*”; RA No. 8172, otherwise known as the “*An Act for Salt Iodization Nationwide (ASIN)*”; RA No. 10862, otherwise known as the “*Nutrition and Dietetics Law of 2016*”; RA No. 11037, otherwise known as the “*Masustansyang Pagkain Para sa Batang Pilipino Act*”, RA No. 11148, otherwise known as the “*Kalusugan at Nutrisyon ng Mag-Nanay Act*”, and all relevant laws on the nutrition and food security to be enacted hereafter must be considered.

The said plan must have measurable targets for ending malnutrition and undernutrition after ten (10) years of its implementation. The PPAN must be concurred in by its provisional members. The PPAN must be submitted to the Office of the President for direction and coordination.

SEC. 10. *Nutrition Month.* – The month of July shall be designated as “Nutrition Month” for the purpose of creating greater awareness among our people on the importance of nutrition. The Commission shall formulate and approve programs and activities for Nutrition Month which should be coordinated across all sectors, whether public or private.

SEC. 11. *Donations.* – The Commission shall be authorized to receive donations, grants, or gifts in whatever form and from whatever sources: *Provided*, That said grants, gifts, or donations shall be administered, obligated, and disbursed in accordance with the terms of the grant or donation and in such manner as the Commission may in its discretion determine.

SEC. 12. *Retention of Personnel; Security of Tenure; Upgrading of Positions and Salaries.* – All existing permanent personnel of the Commission shall not be adversely affected by this Act. They shall continue in office and shall not be removed or separated from the service, except for cause as provided by existing laws. Further, the present positions and salaries of personnel shall be upgraded to the level of their counterparts in a department set-up. The Commission shall hire such other personnel as may be necessary for the performance of its functions.

SEC. 13. *Transitory Provisions.* – In consonance with the above provision, the incumbent Executive Director and Deputy Executive Directors shall serve as the first Chairperson and Commissioners upon the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 14. *Appropriations.* – The State shall hereby provide the initial amount necessary for the organizational and operational requirements of this Act. Thereafter, the amount necessary to carry the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

SEC. 15. *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. 16. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 17. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen days (15) after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,