



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 4668



Introduced by HONORABLE ERNESTO "ERNIX" M. DIONISIO, JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Malnutrition is a universal problem in almost all the countries in the world. The problem of malnutrition stems from other sources as well such as poverty. In the Philippines, malnutrition is also one of the toughest problems to solve. Prior to the pandemic, malnutrition was already a prevalent problem in our country but the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic made the problem much worse.

In 2022, or two years into the pandemic, around 3.1 million Filipino families or 12.2 percent of the population experienced hunger in the first three months of the year. Of the 12.2 percent, 9.3 percent or 2.4 million families experienced moderate hunger and 2.9 percent or around 744,000 families experienced severe hunger. The World Bank associated poverty as one of the basic reasons for health deficiency¹.

Further, according to UNICEF, everyday 95 children in the Philippines die from malnutrition, 27 out of 1,000 Filipino children do not reach their fifth birthday and that a third of Filipino children are stunted or short for their age because of malnutrition².

The 1987 Constitution³ states that, that the State shall defend the right of children to assistance, including proper care and nutrition and special protection from all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty, exploitation and other conditions prejudicial to their development.

As such it is the duty of the State to implement policies to ensure the welfare of the children and one of the basic necessities that every child needs is proper nutrition


¹ Duterte's last loan. \$178M from WB. eyes 2022 targets vs stunting at <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1610270/dutertes-last-loan-178m-from-wb-eyes-2022-targets-vs-stunting> (last accessed September 7, 2022).

² Child survival, Helping children survive and thrive at <https://www.unicef.org/philippines/child-survival#:~:text=Every%20day%2C%2095%20children%20in,permanent%2C%20irreversible%20and%20even%20fatal> (last accessed September 7, 2022).

³ Section 3, Article XV, 1987 Constitution

from a healthy and sufficient amount of food. If a child is healthy, well fed, well focused, and as a result, the quality of education that they are receiving will improve.

This bill aims to mitigate the issue of malnutrition. Through this bill, it seeks to give aid and support not only to the children but as well as their families. Given the situation and the rising issue of malnutrition, the immediate approval of this is necessary.



ERNESTO "ERNIX" M. DIONISIO, JR.
Assistant Majority Floor Leader
Congressman
First Congressional District of Manila



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AN ACT
EXPANDING THE NATIONAL FEEDING PROGRAM
IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS, AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11037 OR THE
"MASUSTANSYANG PAGKAIN PARA SA BATANG PILIPINO ACT"

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

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

"SECTION. 4 (b). School-Based Feeding Program. - The DepEd shall implement a school-based feeding program for undernourished public school [children] LEARNERS 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, JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL, AND SENIOR HIGH school [children] LEARNERS for a period of not less than one hundred twenty (120) days in a year;"

SECTION 2. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Education (DepEd), in consultation with the National Nutrition Council (NNC) the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI), the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Agriculture (DA), the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and concerned LGUs, and such other relevant government agencies, non-government organizations, and development partners shall promulgate their respective rules and regulations for the efficient and effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 3. Separability Cause. - If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 4. Repealing Cause. - All other laws, decrees, orders, other issuances, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 5. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.