Republic of the Philippines
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
**First Regular Session**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 5016**

Introduced by **HON. GUSTAVO S. TAMBUNTING**

**AN ACT**
**PROVIDING FREE FOOD FOR CHILDREN IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND DAYCARE CENTERS FROM PRODUCTS OF FARMERS PURCHASED BY THE GOVERNMENT OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "SCHOOL FEEDING PURCHASED FROM LOCAL FARMERS PROGRAM"**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Undernutrition disrupts a child's mental and physical development leading to poor productivity, concentration, critical thinking, and creativity, and negatively affecting their social abilities. It also makes a child more vulnerable to diseases, disabilities, and even death. Due to the lack of resources and information regarding healthy and affordable meal preparations, parents are unable to provide their children with nutritious meals. Therefore, student performance and retention are affected because they attend classes with an empty stomach or are given junk food as an alternative.

Parents are ultimately responsible for providing for the basic needs of their children which include clean, sufficient, and nutritious food. It is, however, the government's responsibility to support and educate its people, especially the poor who are most vulnerable to hunger.

It is likewise the duty of the State to provide support to the agricultural sector by generating sustainability and promoting steady growth. Considering the many challenges the sector faces, the incorporation of local produce to this program would greatly benefit the livelihood of local farmers.

In this regard, this proposed bill seeks to provide free nutritious food for children in public schools and daycare centers, sourced from local farmers. Investing in children's nutrition is a priority of the Philippine Government to ensure that nutritional deficiency will not be an impediment to the mental and physical development of Filipino children. The bill also seeks to further the growth of the local agricultural sector by utilizing their harvest as raw materials for the proposed school-based feeding program.

On behalf of the people of Parañaque City's Second District, and for the common good of the Filipino people, the approval of the said measure is earnestly sought.

**REP. GUSTAVO S. TAMBUNTING**
2nd District, Parañaque City

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*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 "School Feeding Purchased from Local Farmers Program."

**Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to feed our children and secure their education. It is also the policy of the State to free our people from poverty by providing a guaranteed market for the products of our farmers, thereby promoting full employment in the agricultural sector, presently the sector with the highest poverty incidence.

**Sec. 3. Breakfast Feeding Program.** – A breakfast feeding program shall be mandatory in all public day care centers, preschools, and elementary schools. This breakfast feeding program shall be administered by the Secretary of the Department of Education.

School breakfasts shall be made available free of charge to school children in all public day care centers, preschools, and elementary schools. Feeding shall be done in the morning, preferably before the start of classes.

School breakfasts must meet the applicable recommendations of the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI). The decisions about what specific food to serve and how they are prepared shall be made by the school authorities, based on guidelines to be issued by the Secretary of the Department of Education.

**Sec. 4. Guaranteed Market for Farmers Fund.** – A Guaranteed Market for Farmers Fund shall be established which shall be administered by the Department of Education. Five Billion Pesos (P5,000,000,000.00) shall be appropriated from the National Treasury for this purpose upon the effectivity of this Act. For every succeeding year thereafter, such amount shall be increased by increments of at least Five Billion Pesos (P5,000,000,000.00) shall be appropriated from the National Treasury for this purpose upon the effectivity of this Act. For every succeeding year thereafter, such amount shall be increased by increments of at least Five Billion Pesos (P5,000,000,000.00).

**Sec. 5. Guaranteed Market for Farmers.** – Farmers, identified by the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Social Welfare and Development under the National Household Targeting Survey to be living in poverty, shall be given a guarantee that their produce shall be purchased by the government. The maximum amount to be allocated for each farmer shall be determined so as to ensure that their net income shall not fall below the poverty threshold for their respective localities/regions.

**Sec. 6. Technical Training and Assistance.** – The Secretary of the Department of Education, in consultation with the Secretary of the Department of Health, the Director of the FNRI, and the Director-General/Secretary of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), shall develop a program to provide the food service personnel of public day care centers, preschools, and elementary schools with technical training and assistance to prepare healthy meals. The same personnel shall be responsible for security the produce of the identified farmers from the respective localities.

**Sec. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act, the Secretary of the Department of Education, the Secretary of the Department of Health, the Secretary of Social Welfare and Development, the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with the Director of the FNRI, the Director-General/Secretary of the TESDA, and other appropriate government agencies, shall promulgate the rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act. Such rules and regulations shall take effect fifteen (15) days alter its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

**Sec. 8. Separability Clause.** – If any provision, or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

**Sec. 9. Repealing Clause.** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

**Sec. 10. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*