



SENATE

S. No. 1279

PREPARED JOINTLY BY THE COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION,
ARTS AND CULTURE; YOUTH; WAYS AND MEANS;
AGRICULTURE AND FOOD; HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY
AND FINANCE WITH SENATORS HONASAN II, ZUBIRI,
POE, SOTTO III, LEGARDA, AQUINO IV, GATCHALIAN,
VILLAR, VILLANUEVA, RECTO AND DRILON AS AUTHORS
THEREOF

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL
FEEDING PROGRAM TO COMBAT HUNGER AND
UNDERNUTRITION AMONG FILIPINO CHILDREN,
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 as
2 “Masustansyang Pagkain para sa Batang Pilipino Act”.
- 3 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policies.* – The State recognizes
4 the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall
5 promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual,
6 intellectual, and social well-being. In recognition of the

1 demonstrated relationship between food and nutrition, and
2 the capacity of students to develop and learn, the State
3 shall establish a comprehensive national feeding program that
4 will address the problem of hunger and undernutrition among
5 Filipino children.

6 SEC. 3. *National Feeding Program.* – The National
7 Feeding Program, hereinafter referred to as the Program,
8 is hereby established to address hunger and undernutrition
9 among Filipino children.

10 The Program shall have the following components
11 and coverage:

12 (a) Supplemental Feeding Program for Day Care
13 Children. – The Department of Social Welfare and
14 Development (DSWD), in coordination with the local
15 government units (LGUs) concerned shall implement a
16 supplemental feeding program for undernourished children
17 with ages three (3) to five (5) years. The Program shall be
18 administered in day care centers or in any other facility
19 which can be used for such purpose: *Provided*, That the
20 Program shall include the provision of one (1) healthy meal

1 for a period of not less than one hundred twenty (120) days
2 in a year: *Provided, further,* That in the preparation of
3 children's meals, the DSWD shall work in collaboration
4 with recognized parents' organizations.

5 (b) School-Based Feeding Program. – The Department
6 of Education (DepED) with the Health and Nutrition
7 Center shall implement a school-based feeding program for
8 undernourished public school children from kindergarten
9 to grade six (6): *Provided,* That the Program shall include
10 the provision of one (1) healthy meal to all undernourished
11 public elementary school children for a period of not less
12 than one hundred twenty (120) days in a year.

13 To assess the efficacy of the Programs, the national
14 government agencies (NGAs) concerned shall monitor the
15 weight, height and other relevant health indicators of the
16 children prior to and after the feeding cycle. Health and
17 nutrition assessments shall be undertaken by the NGAs
18 concerned to track the health and nutrition progress of the
19 Program beneficiaries. The NGAs concerned shall also

1 ensure the compliance of its implementing units to the
2 Program guidelines and the procurement process adopted.

3 SEC. 4. *Creation of a National Nutrition and Poverty*
4 *Information System.* – The National Nutrition Council (NNC)
5 shall harmonize all existing national and local nutrition and
6 poverty databases that identify individuals, groups, and/or
7 localities that have the highest magnitude of hunger,
8 undernutrition, and poverty. This system shall be utilized
9 in monitoring the health and nutrition of children covered
10 by the Program.

11 SEC. 5. *Cycle Menu.* – The DSWD and DepED, in
12 coordination with NNC and the Food and Nutrition Research
13 Institute (FNRI), shall prepare several standardized menus to
14 be served to all Program beneficiaries. The menus shall be
15 contextualized and drawn up according to age range, type of
16 school, and local cultural eating preferences, within
17 recommended standards. At least one third (1/3) of the daily
18 requirement shall be provided based on the Philippine
19 Dietary Reference Intake (PDRI).

1 SEC. 6. *Gulayan sa Paaralan.* – The schools shall be
2 encouraged to devote a portion of land or space for the
3 cultivation of vegetables and other nutrient-rich plants as
4 identified by the members of the NNC. Schools lacking in
5 land shall adopt modern gardening technologies with the
6 assistance of the Department of Science and Technology
7 (DOST) and the city or municipal agricultural officers.
8 Parents shall also be encouraged to maintain a similar
9 Program in their own households.

10 SEC. 7. *Milk Feeding Program and the Use of Locally*
11 *Produced Milk.* – The DepED shall collaborate with the DSWD,
12 the Philippine Carabao Center, Cooperative Development
13 Authority (CDA) and the National Dairy Authority for the
14 incorporation of a milk feeding program into the national
15 feeding program provided under this Act.

16 The use of locally produced milk in the cycle menus
17 under the Program, shall be encouraged and developed in
18 order to enhance the nutritional content of the food and at
19 the same time help in boosting livelihood opportunities of

1 our local dairy farmers and the local dairy industry of the
2 Philippines.

3 SEC. 8. *Nutrition Promotive Programs.* –

4 (a) *Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH).* – The
5 Department of Health (DOH), day care centers and public
6 elementary education institutions shall establish and
7 maintain water and sanitation facilities, promote good
8 hygiene and safe food preparation, and conduct deworming
9 of Program beneficiaries twice during the school year.

10 (b) *Micronutrient Supplementation.* – To address
11 micronutrient deficiency, the DOH, the day care centers
12 and public elementary education institutions shall provide
13 for micronutrient supplementation among its Program
14 beneficiaries in the form of micronutrient powder, iron
15 supplementation, and iodized salt utilization and other
16 extra nutrients necessary.

17 SEC. 9. *Prioritization in the Program Implementation.* –

18 The DSWD and DepED shall create a five (5)-year plan to
19 fully implement the Program: *Provided, That* the NGAs
20 concerned shall prioritize the implementation of the

1 Program in the LGUs and public elementary schools that
2 meet any of the following criteria:

3 (a) With the highest prevalence of undernutrition and
4 nutrient-deficiency among children aged three (3) years up
5 to grade six (6) level;

6 (b) With available facilities or capability to implement
7 the Program; and

8 (c) Which prioritize such Program in their locality
9 and are willing to provide counterpart resources for its
10 implementation.

11 SEC. 10. *Integrated Nutrition Education, Behavioral*
12 *Transformation, and Social Mobilization.* – The Program
13 shall be complemented by public health, nutrition, and
14 values transformation campaign to promote a holistic and
15 integrated approach to health and nutrition education.
16 Orientation-training on the objectives and mechanics of
17 the Program shall be held among personnel of NGAs and
18 LGUs concerned, parent volunteers, and the parent-
19 teachers associations (PTAs) to generate support for the
20 Program. The NGAs concerned shall also endeavor to mobilize

1 community organizations to continue nutrition education
2 outside of the school.

3 SEC. 11. *Monitoring, Review and Assessment of the*
4 *Program.* – The NGAs and LGUs concerned shall regularly
5 monitor, review and assess the impact and effectivity of
6 the Program in consultation with their stakeholders.

7 SEC. 12. *Procurement of Goods and Services.* – The
8 provisions of Republic Act No. 9184, notwithstanding, the
9 government agencies concerned are hereby mandated to
10 establish a liberalized mode of procurement for this
11 Program, subject to the approval of the government
12 procurement policy board.

13 The public procurement for this Program shall
14 encourage the participation of local and community-based
15 producers, suppliers and/or service contractors.

16 SEC. 13. *Annual Report.* – The agencies concerned
17 shall prepare and submit an annual report on the status of
18 the Program implementation to the Office of the President
19 and both Houses of Congress.

1 SEC. 14. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to
2 carry out the initial implementation of this Act shall be
3 sourced from the current appropriations of the DSWD and
4 DepED.

5 Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the
6 continuous implementation of this Act shall be included in
7 the annual General Appropriations Act under the
8 respective budgets of the DSWD and DepED.

9 SEC. 15. *Local Government Assistance.* – A portion of
10 the Special Education Fund may be used to augment the
11 appropriations available for the implementation of the
12 school-based feeding program provided under Section 3(b)
13 of this Act.

14 SEC. 16. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* –
15 Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the
16 DSWD and the DepED, in coordination with the DBM,
17 NNC, FNRI, and other relevant government agencies,
18 nongovernment organizations, and development partners
19 shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for
20 the effective implementation of this Act.

1 SEC. 17. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or
2 part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, remainder
3 of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall
4 remain valid and subsisting.

5 SEC. 18. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees,
6 orders, rules, and regulations or other issuances or parts
7 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
8 repealed or modified accordingly.

9 SEC. 19. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect
10 fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette*
11 or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,