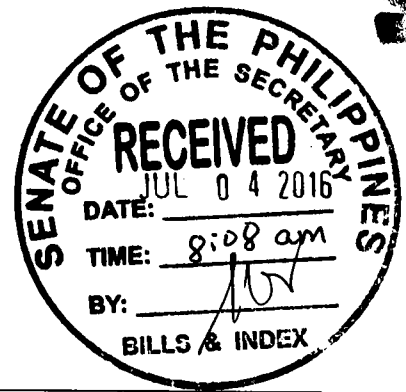


SEVENTEETH CONGRESS OF THE }  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES }  
First Regular Session }



SENATE  
S.B. No. 220

---

Introduced by SENATOR VICENTE C. SOTTO III

---

AN ACT  
INSTITUTING A SCHOOL NOURISHMENT AND DIETARY PROGRAM TO  
ALL PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS PROVIDING FUNDS  
THEREFORE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Problem of malnourishment in the country particularly among children has been prevalent for decades. This is evidenced by the number of impoverished families comprising almost 70% of the population. In the Nutritional Status Report by the Department of Education disclosed that a total of 562,262 students enrolled in the primary level in public schools in 2012 have been considered "severely wasted" or suffering from severe malnutrition.

It has been said that malnutrition among students, based on several studies, reveals the effect of such condition to the learning capacity of pupils. Poorly nourished students have a short attention span making them focus less on their lessons. There is a high probability that this unfortunate situation is the major cause of habitual absenteeism and dropping out of schools.

The Department of Education in its effort to combat the problem, has been initiating feeding program through its Health and Nutrition Center (HNC) as well as partnerships with private companies and community-based volunteers. However, such endeavors are not enough to cover and continuously sustain to combat the problem of nutrition amongst the poor students.

It is through this situation that lead to the introduction of this proposed measure, which intends to address the problem by mandating the institutionalization of a nourishment program that will provide the supply of full rice meal to all public elementary students in the country.

This bill likewise provides that the meal to be distributed should be fortified with the necessary balance and complete nutritional requirements to ascertain that public school children will be energized for an active mind and body.

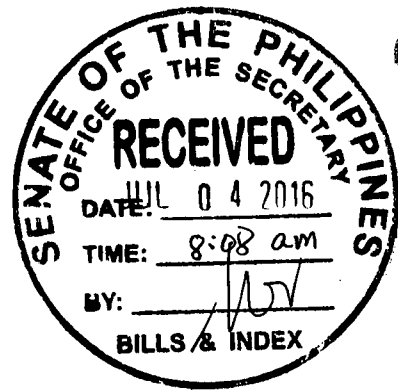
If the government is envisioning achieving a healthy and productive Citizenry, proper nourishments should start from the young age.

I encourage my colleagues to support the immediate passage of this bill.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vicente C. Sotto III', written in a cursive style.

**VICENTE C. SOTTO III**

SEVENTEETH CONGRESS OF THE }  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES }  
First Regular Session }



SENATE  
S.B. No. 220

---

Introduced by SENATOR VICENTE C. SOTTO III

---

AN ACT  
INSTITUTING A SCHOOL NOURISHMENT AND DIETARY PROGRAM TO  
ALL PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS PROVIDING FUNDS  
THEREFORE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 SECTION 1. **Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "School Nutrition  
2 and Dietary Act of 2016."

3 SECTION 2. **Declaration of State Policies.** - It is the policy of the  
4 State to promote, foster, and protect the health, nutrition and well-being of  
5 school children in the society. The government shall address the perennial  
6 problems of malnutrition as well as common chronic diseases and other  
7 diet-related health problems that affect school children by instilling a policy  
8 that will ensure that our young students are getting nutritious and healthy  
9 meals.

10 SECTION 3. **Compulsory School Nourishment Program.** - Any  
11 provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding, all public elementary  
12 schools shall implement a School Nourishment Program, herein referred to  
13 as "nourishment program" for students in the elementary level.

14 The nourishment program shall institute a system of providing a rice  
15 meal on a daily basis to all public elementary students during school days of  
16 the entire school calendar year. A rice meal shall mean serving/s of rice and  
17 at least one (1) viand and shall have balanced nutritional contents needed  
18 by school children such as protein, fat, saturated fat, carbohydrate, fiber,  
19 iron, zinc, calcium, Vitamin A, Vitamin C, folate, sodium and other nutrients  
20 as may be determined by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute.

1           SECTION 4. **Trainings on Food Preparations.** - Food caterers,  
2 which may be commissioned in the preparation and serving of meals in  
3 schools under this Act, shall undergo the necessary training and strictly  
4 follow a healthy nutrition planning in order to comply with the objectives of  
5 the nourishment program.

6           SECTION 5. **Charity Food Contribution.** - Private corporations or  
7 any other entity engaged in the food manufacturing business may  
8 contribute food donations to the nourishment program under this Act by  
9 channeling the same to the Department of Education. The donations shall  
10 be deducted from the gross income of the private corporation or any other  
11 entity based on the rules governing income tax: deductions for charitable  
12 contributions as provided for in the National Internal Revenue Code, as  
13 amended.

14           SECTION 6. **Implementing Agency.** - The Department of Education  
15 shall enforce the provisions of this Act, and within ninety (90) days from its  
16 effectivity, promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations.

17           SECTION 7. **Appropriations.** -An initial allocation of Twenty Million  
18 Pesos (P 20,000,000.00) from the budget of the Department of Education is  
19 hereby appropriated during the first year of its implementation. Thereafter,  
20 said amount shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

21           SECTION 8. **Repealing Clause.** - Any provision of law or any other  
22 order, decree, issuance, rules and regulations which is/are inconsistent  
23 with the provision of this act are hereby repealed, amended or modified  
24 accordingly.

25           SECTION 9. **Separability Clause.** - In the event that any provision or  
26 part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining  
27 provisions shall be valid and in full force and effect.

28           SECTION 10. **Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15)  
29 days from its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper  
30 of general circulation.

*Approved,*