

SENATE

S. No. 1003

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI), Department of Science and Technology (DOST) conducted a survey covering 12,425 children aged 0 - 10 years of age, with groupings of pre-school age children (0 - 5) and school age children (6 - 10). There were 10,364 pre-school children and 1,791 school age children included in the survey.

The survey revealed that among pre-school children, underweight prevalence was 30.6%, under-height 31.4%, and prevalence of thinness was 6.3%, while a higher proportion for underweight children which was estimated at 32.9%, 41% for under-height, and 6.5% for thinness for school age children.

Indeed, malnutrition remains as one of the major problems of the country today. It continues to jeopardize the growth and mental development potentials as well as the very survival of millions of Filipino children.

Thus, it becomes imperative that the National Nutrition Program be strengthened to address the problem of malnutrition and effectively guide every Filipino towards a healthy lifestyle and improved quality of life.

In view of the above, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator

SENATE

S. No. 1003

fs

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL NUTRITION PROGRAM,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Title. - This Act shall be known as the "**Accelerate Nutrition Improvement (ANI) Act of 2010.**"

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is the declared policy of the State to promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living and an improved quality of life for all, to defend and promote 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.

In line with the above, the State further declares its determination to eliminate hunger and reduce all forms of malnutrition are acceptable in a world that has both the knowledge and resources to end this human catastrophe.

The State maintains that nutrition is both an end-goal and a means to achieve development. It is a multi-factorial concern requiring inputs from all sectors. As such, nutrition shall be a priority of the government to be implemented by all its branches in collaboration with non-government organizations and the private sector, the business sector and people's organization, in an integrated manner with focus to nutritionally and economically depressed areas, communities and households.

SEC. 3. Objectives. – This measure aims to improve the nutritional status of the country and its citizenry. In order to achieve improved nutrition, it aims to:

a) Strengthen the National Nutrition Council (NCC) as the highest policymaking and coordinating body on nutrition to ensure coherence of nutrition programs of national government agencies, local government units and non-government organizations with the national nutritional plan;

b) Provide a policy environment conducive to nutrition improvement in both social and economic development sectors;

c) Provide mechanisms, strategies and approaches in implementing programs and projects to improve nutritional status and to eradicate hunger and malnutrition; as well as prescribe standards and criteria for efficient and effective intervention to maximize the impact for the nutritionally-at-risk; and

d) Ensure participation and cooperation on the NNC member agencies, other national government agencies (NGAs) or instrumentalities, local government units (LGUs), non government organizations (NGOs), and the academe in an integrated manner for the promotion of the nutritional well-being of the population.

SEC. 4. Definition Terms. - As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

a) NNC - the existing National Nutritional Council as created by Presidential Decree No. 491 as amended by Executive Order No. 234 and Administrative Order No. 88.

b) BIDANI - Barangay Integrated Development Approach for Nutrition Improvement of the rural poor (BIDANI) is a strategy and network program for nutrition improvement utilizing a systematic and holistic approach to development planning with active involvement of all sectors at different levels of activities. It is spearheaded by a network of state universities and colleges (SUCs) utilizing multi-disciplinary and technical human resources, which are non-political and which guarantee continuity. It strengthens direct nutrition interventions as a shared responsibility between the community and service providers to prevent malnutrition and to rehabilitate malnourished children.

c) Household food security - access by all people at all times to nutritionally adequate and safe food needed for an active and healthy life.

d) Local chief executive - the highest elective position in a local government unit. More specifically, it refers to the governor, city and municipal mayors and barangay captain.

e) Local nutrition plan - the medium term and annual integrated nutritional plan formulated by the LGU to address its nutritional problems, which is integral to the

local development plan. It is based on the particular needs and situation of the LGU, but adheres to the general principles and directions set in the national nutritional plan.

f) *National nutrition plan* - the medium-term and annual integrated nutrition plan formulated by the National Nutrition Council. It sets goals and directions for the formulation and implementation of programs and projects by relevant government instrumentalities, LGUs, NGOs, including business corporations and community-based organizations, the academe and international community. It is also an integral component of the *Philippine Medium-Term Development Plan (MTPDP)*. As such, the national nutritional plan adheres to development efforts enunciated in the MTPDP.

g) *Non-government Organization (NGO)* - private, non-profit organizations that are committed to the task of socioeconomic development and established primarily for service.

h) *Nutritionally depressed areas* - barangays, cities, municipalities, or provinces which, based on nutrition and one or more socioeconomic indicators, are nutritionally more disadvantaged when compared to other areas of the country.

SEC. 5. *The National Nutrition Council.* - The National Nutrition Council (NNC) composed of a governing board and a secretariat, is the highest policymaking body on nutrition. It shall formulate the medium-term and annual nutrition plan, and coordinate its implementation. It shall provide over-all directions for the nutrition plans and programs and coordinate with all other agencies which contribute resources and expertise for nutrition development. It shall meet at least two (2) times a year, without prejudice to holding of more frequent meetings as may be needed.

In order to increase its efficiency and effectiveness, the composition of the NCC governing board is hereby expanded:

a) The governing board - The governing shall be composed of secretaries or head of the following agencies:

1. Department of Agriculture - who is hereby designated as chairman;
2. Department of Health -who shall be the vice-chairman;
3. Department of Social Welfare and Development - Member;
4. Department of Education, Culture and Sports - Member;
5. Department of Interior and Local Government - Member;
6. Department of Science and Technology - Member;
7. Department of Budget and Management - Member;
8. Department of Labor and Employment - Member;
9. Department of Agrarian Reform - Member;
10. Department of Trade and Industry - Member;
11. National Economic and Development Authority - Member;

12. Commission on Higher Education - Member; and
13. Three (3) representatives from the private sector to be appointed by the President.

The Board shall create a permanent technical committee and ad hoc committees of experts as it may deem necessary, to act as the Council's advisory body on policy and program matters. The members of the technical committee shall also facilitate intra and intra-agency and sectoral coordination of efforts for nutrition improvement.

The chairperson and the members of the board and technical committee and committees of experts shall receive no compensation but shall be entitled to honoraria and other emoluments as may be fixed by the Board for every meeting actually attended, subject to existing laws, rules and regulations.

b) The secretariat shall serve as the executive arm of the governing board. It shall be headed by an executive director, assisted by two (2) deputy executive directors, all of whom shall be appointed by the President.

SEC. 6. Functions and Powers. - The Council shall have the following functions and powers:

- a) Formulate national nutrition policies, plans, strategies and approaches for nutritional improvement;
- b) Formulate standard and criteria for efficient and effective interventions to maximize impact for the nutritionally at-risk populations;
- c) Educate the public on nutrition and its importance to individual, community, and national development;
- d) Oversee and serve as local point in the coordinated implementation of policies and programs of all member and government instrumentalities as well as other concerned non-government organizations charged with the execution of existing laws, policies, rules and regulations concerning nutrition;
- e) Coordinate, monitor and evaluate programs and projects of both public and private sectors as well as LGUs in order to ensure integration of nutrition with national policies;
- f) Generate resources either by direct solicitation or by fund raising activities from various entities, agencies, and the general public; acting as trustee of funds generated to support nutrition program and projects;
- g) Call upon any government agency and instrumentality comprising the pillars of the executive and legislative systems for such assistance as may be required to implement the provisions of this Act in order to reduce and eventually eliminate malnutrition in the country; and

h) Do such act, adopt such measures, enter into such arrangements to issue such rules and regulations as may be proper for the integration, systematization, administration and implementation of all nutrition programs.

SEC. 7. Role of NNC Member-Agencies, other National Government Agencies and Local Government Units, the Academe, and Non-government Organizations in the ANI Act. - The NNC member agencies shall ensure the successful implementation of programs and projects, development of promotional, preventive and curative nutrition programs, and integration of nutrition concerns in their respective policies and plans. They shall provide additional resources in any form in support of the local nutrition plan as a continuing involvement of the national government to local plans and programs.

They shall likewise submit to the NNC governing board through the NNC secretariat yearly accomplishment reports of nutrition and nutrition related activities for the assessment and evaluation of the government delivery system on nutrition.

Other national government agencies shall serve as an important link in promoting nutrition in development through participation in the continuing advocacy for nutrition improvement, and integration of nutrition consideration in their sectoral plans and programs. The local government units (LGUs), pursuant to the Local Government Code of 1991, shall provide and deliver basic nutrition services and facilities to the community. As such, they shall formulate, implement, manage, monitor and evaluate medium-term and annual local nutrition plans. The LGUs shall organize inter-agency local nutrition committees which shall be chaired by the local chief executive either as a committee of the local development council (LDC) or as a subcommittee of a committee of the LDC. LGUs shall integrate nutrition considerations in their short, medium and long-term development plans and programs and shall coordinate with the NNC in the enforcement of the Act.

LGUs shall recruit, train and deploy nutritionist-dietitians in every municipality, city, and province; and recruit, train and deploy barangay nutrition scholars in every barangay in support of the local nutrition plan. LGUs shall also submit to the NNC annual reports of accomplishments of their respective nutrition plans. State universities and colleges (SUC) and DECS - supervised schools and colleges shall intensify nutrition-related training, research and extension support activities through the BIDANA network program and other relevant approaches, thereby accelerating community development in partnership with the LGUs. They shall likewise coordinate with their respective LGUs in connection with nutrition and related initiatives. They shall also submit to their respective LGUs quarterly reports of accomplishments on nutrition and related concerns.

SEC. 8. Appropriations. - The amount necessary to carry out the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the National Nutrition Council. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriation Act.

SEC. 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The NNC in cooperation with the agencies concerned, shall formulate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within ninety (90) days from its approval.

SEC. 10. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act or the application of such provision to any instrumentalities or entities or circumstances is held invalid or unconstitutional for any reason the remainder, or this Act or the application of such other provisions shall not be affected and shall remain in force and in effect.

SEC. 11. Repealing Clause. - All laws and part of laws, decrees, orders, proclamations, issuances, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 12. Saving Clause. - Powers, functions and rights already acquired and existing at the time of the passage of this Act shall not in any way be abridged, modified nor abated, unless repealed, amended or modified under the preceding section.

SEC. 13. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,