

SENATE

S. No. 05

Introduced by Senator Gregorio B. Honasan II

EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to the United Nations World Food Program, "Brazil is the fastest country in defeating poverty... In Brazil ... rather than investing in Food Subsidies, they invested in a School Feeding Program."

Poverty in the Philippines remained unchanged in the past six years according to the National Economic and Development Authority and surveys released this year estimated more than 50% of our people considered themselves as living in poverty. This translates to more than 10 Million Filipino families. Recent surveys also report that more than 44% of our people are hungry.

In Brazil, their government used a portion of their funds for poverty alleviation (1/3 of the funds) to purchase the produce of farmers and utilized the food they bought from the farmers of each locality to feed students of the same locality.

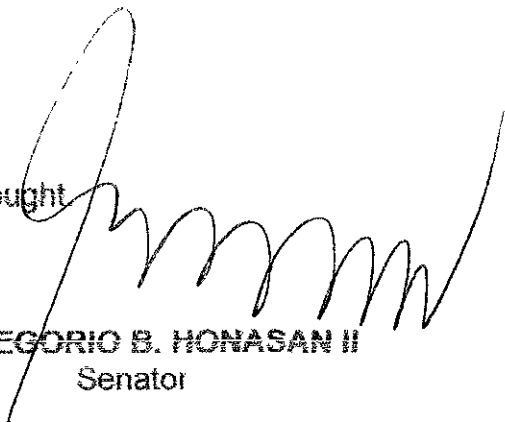
The Department of Science and Technology has launched and continues to fund and develop the nutrition pack program. These packages which cost P6.50 per day are made of rice-mungo-sesame blends in 20-gram boxes that come in ready-to-eat and ready-to-cook packages. In October 2012, the Department of Education launched its School-Based Feeding Program (SBFP). It targets some 42,372 kindergarten to Grade 6 pupils that were identified as "severely wasted" children. The SBFP developed standardized recipes using malunggay and a 20-day cycle menu utilizing vegetables locally grown in school gardens.

It is in this light that this Bill mandating the provision of free food for children in public schools and day care centers from products of farmers purchased by the government otherwise known as Libre Si Papa at Si Mama Program (Libreng Siguradong Pagkaing Pambata at Siguradong May Kita ang Magsasaka Program) is being proposed.

With this strategy, we can hit 3 objectives:

- 1) Save our children from malnutrition;
- 2) Educate our Children - feeding them will keep them smart and in school; and
- 3) Alleviate the poorest Filipinos from poverty, give the farmers dignity, and encourage the farmers to plant (since there is a guaranteed buyer - the government) and achieve food self-sufficiency.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought



GREGORIO B. HONASAN II
Senator

**SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)**

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SENATE

S. No. 65

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Introduced by **Senator GREGORIO B. HONASAN II**

**AN ACT
PROVIDING FREE FOOD FOR CHILDREN IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND DAY
CARE CENTERS FROM PRODUCTS OF FARMERS PURCHASED BY THE
GOVERNMENT OTHERWISE KNOWN AS LIBRE SI PAPA AT SI MAMA
PROGRAM (LIBRENG SIGURADONG PAGKAING PAMBATA AT
SIGURADONG MAY KITA ANG MAGSASAKA PROGRAM)**

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Free Food for Children and Guaranteed Income for Farmers Act or Libre Si Papa at Si Mama Program."

SECTION 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.

SECTION 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 Education.

School breakfasts shall be made available free of charge to school children in all public day care centers, preschool, 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 Education.

SECTION 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).

SECTION 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.

SECTION 6. Technical Training and Assistance. - The Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Secretary of Health, the FNRI, and 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 securing the produce of the identified farmers from the respective localities.

SECTION 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. -Within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act, the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Health, the Secretary of Social Welfare and Development, the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, in consultation with the FNRI, 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 after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

SECTION 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.

SECTION 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.

SECTION 10. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.
Approved,