

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

13 JUL -3 P12:39

SENATE

S.B. No. 340

RECEIVED BY: *Jui*

Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Addressing malnutrition among Filipino children remains a great challenge, especially because with 19.2 percent of the population experiencing hunger¹, we cannot expect that these poor families would even be able to choose healthy meals to feed their children.

According to the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI), approximately 32 percent of Filipino children ages 5-10 years old are underweight, while 33.6 percent of children under the same age group are stunted.²

In an effort to address nutritional deficiencies among children, we must institutionalize a Milk Feeding Program wherein locally produced milk, as well as formula milk, shall be given to children between five and 10 years of age nationwide.

We need to provide budgetary appropriations to ensure the sustainable implementation of this program. Thus, this bill seeks to establish a Milk Feeding Fund.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly requested.


LOREN LEGARDA
Senator

¹ SWS survey on hunger incidence in the Philippines conducted on March 19-22, 2013

² DOST-FNRI: Life Stage Approach in Assessing and Monitoring Nutritional Status: Results from the 2011 Survey on Updating the Nutritional Status of Filipino Children and Other Population Groups.

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AN ACT
PROTECTING THE FILIPINO CHILDREN FROM MALNUTRITION,
INSTITUTIONALIZING FOR THIS PURPOSE "THE MILK FEEDING
PROGRAM", APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR 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 "Milk Feeding Act of 2013."
2

3 **Section 2. Declaration of Policy.** It is the policy of the State to ensure the
4 health and welfare of vulnerable children.
5

6 **Section 3. Milk Feeding.** Milk feeding, as used in this Act, shall cover
7 distribution of locally produced fresh milk from cows, carabaos and goats as well as
8 formula milk in powdered form for direct intake of children ages 5-10 years old. The
9 fresh milk shall come from the produce of the local milk suppliers and milk feeding
10 sponsors, whether private or government. No milk intended for milk feeding shall
11 be used for commercial sale.
12

13 **Section 4. Priority Coverage.** Priority shall be given to children in barangay
14 day care centers, pre-schools and schools where malnutrition is high and further to
15 nursing mothers, pregnant women and elderly persons who also reside in rural
16 communities.
17

18 **Section 5. The Milk Feeding Fund.** There is hereby allocated an initial amount
19 of Five Hundred Million Pesos (P500,000,000.00) out of the total tax collection of the
20 National Government for the current year from the importation of milk and dairy
21 product as well as dairy equipment and implements in order to enhance and

1 augment the existing funds for the National Milk Feeding Program of the National
2 Dairy Authority. Said allocation shall constitute the seed money for the Milk Fund.

3
4 Annually, thereafter, the Milk Feeding Fund shall be augmented by seventy-
5 five percent (75%) of the annual tax collection of the National Government from the
6 importation of milk and dairy products as well as dairy equipment and implement;
7 seventy percent (70%) of which shall be used for the National Milk Feeding Program
8 and the balance of thirty percent (30%) shall be used for other dairy and dairy-
9 related activities.

10
11 **Section 6. *Funding Alternatives.*** In the event that the milk import tariff fund
12 allocation is not available due to previous utilization commitment, alternative
13 sourcing shall be automatically effected equivalent to either:

- 14 • At least ten percent (10%) of the generated funds resulting from the grant
15 of RP Food Aid Fun Overseas Development Assistance Fund and other
16 confirmed fund assistance to the Philippine Government, or
- 17 • At least one-half (½) of one percent (1%) of the Annual Approved General
18 Appropriation Budget of the Government,

19
20 **Section 7. *Facilitation of Funding.*** The Department of Finance (DOF) and the
21 Department of Budget and Management (DBM) are hereby directed to set aside the
22 above amount from the taxes collected on the importation of milk and dairy
23 products as well as dairy equipment and implements and/or to secure the
24 stipulated ten percent (10%) automatic allocation against all confirmed fund
25 assistance sources cited in Section 6 hereof, or to allocate the one-half (½) of one
26 percent (1%) of the Annual Approved General Appropriation budget of the
27 Government, whichever fund is available.

28
29 **Section 8. *Implementing Authority.*** The National Dairy Authority, consistent
30 with its mandate under Republic Act No. 7884, is hereby authorized to administer
31 the utilization of the aforesaid fund for the Nation Milk Feeding Program and other
32 dairy-related development activities. The NDA shall tap *bona fide* and reputable
33 women's organization as milk feeding partner as well as other government agencies
34 and non-government organizations (NGOs) with social reform, pro-poor and pro-
35 child agenda.

1 **Section 9. Milk Feeding Incentives.** Any private entity or benefactor, local or
2 foreign, that supports the Milk Feeding Program in whatever form, shall be given
3 due tax credit equivalent to 100% of the value of their contribution to the program.
4

5 **Section 10. Repealing Clause.** All acts, executive orders, administrative
6 orders, proclamation, rules and regulation or parts thereof inconsistent with any of
7 provision of this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.
8

9 **Section 11. Separability Clause.** If any part, section or provision of this Act is
10 declared invalid or unconstitutional, other parts or provisions hereof not affected
11 thereby shall remain in full force and effect.
12

13 **Section 12. Effectivity.** This act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
14 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.
15

16 Approved,