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13 JUL 2013

SENATE
Senate Bill No. 1031

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Introduced by: Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV

EXPLANATORY NOTE

"You cannot feed the mind on an empty stomach." This is a truth that millions of Filipinos know and feel all too well. Every day, millions of Filipino children trek to school, underfed and undernourished, yet expected to fully absorb the lessons of the day.

In a study called "The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2012", conducted by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), a total of 16 million Filipinos were considered undernourished 2010 to 2012, even as the number of chronically undernourished people dropped in all other Southeast Asian countries. Despite our growing economy, there are more underfed people in the Philippines today than there were two decades ago.

Meanwhile, another recent study on "the role of early childhood nourishment and health in connection with human capital accumulation", published by Dartmouth University in 2012, revealed that the long-term detrimental effects of childhood hunger have a greater impact on school children than the effects of substandard schooling, infrastructure, classrooms, and textbooks.

This is perhaps one of the main reasons why Filipino children continue to lag behind our Asian neighbors in standardized tests. How can we expect them to do well in school when we have not given their brains the proper nourishment and fuel for the tasks that lie ahead of them?

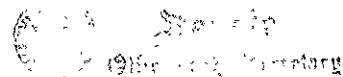
Thus, the proposed **"Pagkaing Pinoy para sa Batang Pinoy"** bill seeks to alleviate childhood malnutrition in the Philippines through a feeding program for public kindergarten and elementary school children. It will promote the health of children who are most in need, by providing regular and free access to nutritious food within a safe and clean school and community environment.

The benefits of the bill do not end there. To enhance the social value of this proposed measure, the feeding program will utilize, when possible and available, locally-sourced and locally-produced food products in order also support local farmers and farming communities, and thus provide direct support to local agricultural communities. By providing a regular market for the products of local farmers and small entrepreneurs, this feeding program will help address not only child malnutrition but also poverty in the countryside.

The bill will entail partnerships with the Department of Agriculture (DA), the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of Education (DepEd), and local government units.


Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV

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



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SENATE
S.B. No. 1031

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BY: *ju*

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**AN ACT
CREATING A FOOD PURCHASE AND DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM
FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
SUPPORTING LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION**

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 “Pagkaing Pinoy para sa mga Bata.”

2 **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policies.** – The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in
3 nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and
4 social well-being.

5 It is a policy of the State to give priority to education to foster patriotism and
6 nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development.
7 Accordingly, the State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at
8 all levels, and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.

9 In recognition of the demonstrated relationship between food and nutrition and the
10 capacity of children to develop and learn, the State shall address the problem of malnutrition
11 and under nutrition among children and enhance the learning process by establishing a national
12 feeding program for school children in public kindergarten and elementary schools throughout
13 the country. At the same time, the State shall elevate the social value of this program by
14 supporting and promoting local food production and income generation in the country side.

15 **SECTION 3. Food Purchase and Distribution Program for Schools.** – The Food Purchase
16 and Distribution Program for Schools is hereby created to be governed by the following rules:

1 (a) A thorough assessment of the nutritional needs of students shall be conducted,
2 based on the Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) for protein, calcium, iron, Vitamin A,
3 Vitamin C, and calories for school children set by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute
4 (FNRI), as well as with the farming culture and diets of every local government unit.

5 (b) The Department of Agriculture in coordination with its regional offices and the local
6 government units shall identify in the first six (6) months of this program the relevant
7 agricultural products that are grown by local farming communities in order to enhance the
8 social value of the purchase and distribution of food to schools across the country. It will
9 determine how locally-produced food products can most effectively be utilized for the program.

10 (c) The Department of Agriculture shall be the lead department in identifying the
11 farmers who can supply the food products required in this program based on the price and
12 availability of products in the local market, including the number of farmers to be benefited and
13 communities supported.

14 (d) *Technical Training and Assistance on Food Preparation, Safety, and Sanitation.* – The
15 Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Health, the Technical
16 Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and other appropriate government
17 agencies, shall develop a program to provide the food service personnel and/or other suppliers
18 of public kindergarten and elementary schools with technical training and assistance in the
19 preparation of healthy and nutritious meals, food safety, and sanitation.

20 (e) The Department of Education, in coordination with the Department of Health, and
21 the Department of Agriculture, shall draw up a menu list of food products that can be served to
22 public kindergarten and elementary school children. The menu list needs to be drawn up
23 according to age range, type of school and the hours that students spend in school. When two
24 meals are served, at least thirty percent (30%) of daily nutritional requirements should be
25 provided. In schools with a full-day curriculum, the minimum shall be seventy percent (70%).

26 (f) In the first two (2) years of this program, the program shall focus on thirty percent
27 (30%) of the poorest provinces in the country. In the third year to the fourth year, the next

1 thirty percent (30%) of the poorest provinces shall be included in the program. The rest of the
2 country shall be included in the program in the fifth to sixth years of its implementation.

3 **SECTION 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within one (1) month from the
4 effectivity of this Act, the Department of Education, Department of Agriculture, Department of
5 Health, Department of Social Welfare and Development and Local Government Units (LGUs)
6 shall issue the Implementing Rules and Regulations for the implementation of this Act.

7 **SECTION 5. *Periodic Review.*** – The implementing departments shall submit an annual
8 report to Congress on the progress of this program.

9 **SECTION 6. *Appropriations.*** – To carry out the provisions of this Act, such amounts
10 necessary is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury. Thereafter, such
11 amounts necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual
12 appropriation of the Department of Education.

13 **SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
14 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
15 valid and subsisting.

16 **SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.*** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
17 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent
18 with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

19 **SECTION 9. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
20 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

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