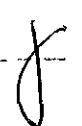


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SENATE
P.S.R. No. 1428

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator **SONNY M. ANGARA**

RESOLUTION
URGING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE STATE OF FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY AND PERSISTENT MALNUTRITION SITUATION IN THE PHILIPPINES

WHEREAS, the 1996 World Food Summit defined food security as encompassing four critical factors:

- a) Food Availability – the physical presence of food in sufficient amounts;
- b) Food Access – the ability to acquire food, whether by producing or purchasing it;
- c) Food Utilization – the nutritional value of food as well as the ability of the body to make use of its nutrients; and
- d) Stability – people’s ability to access food at all times, despite shocks or cyclical events.

WHEREAS, the presence of these four factors is expected to ultimately lead to food and nutrition security. “Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life”¹;

WHEREAS, the Philippines is a signatory to the 2000 Millennium Declaration which led to the development of the time-bound Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as a global agenda of development for 2015;

WHEREAS, after 2015 and building on the MDGs, the global agenda included the goal to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture as one of the Sustainable Development Goals;

WHEREAS, the Food and Nutrition Research Institute’s (FNRI) National Nutrition Surveys from 1989-2013 show the prevalence of malnutrition among children aged 0-60 months:

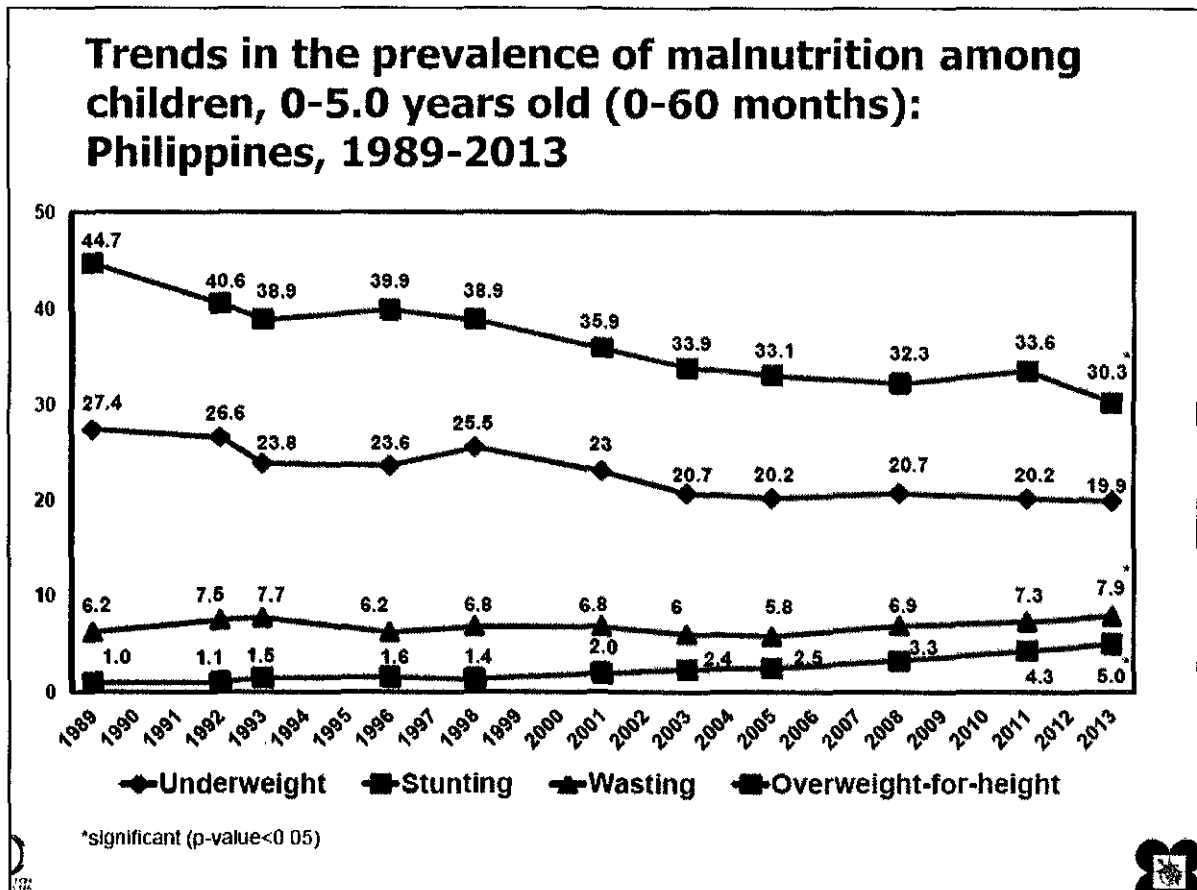
- **Wasting** increased from 6.2% in 1989 to 7.9% in 2013 and falls under the WHO classification of “of concern”²;
- **Stunting** is still high³ at 30.3% in 2013 although it decreased from 44.7% in 1989; and

¹ World Food Summit Plan of Action, 1996.

² WHO Classification for wasting: <5% (acceptable), 5-9% (of concern), 10-14% (serious), ≥ 15% (critical)

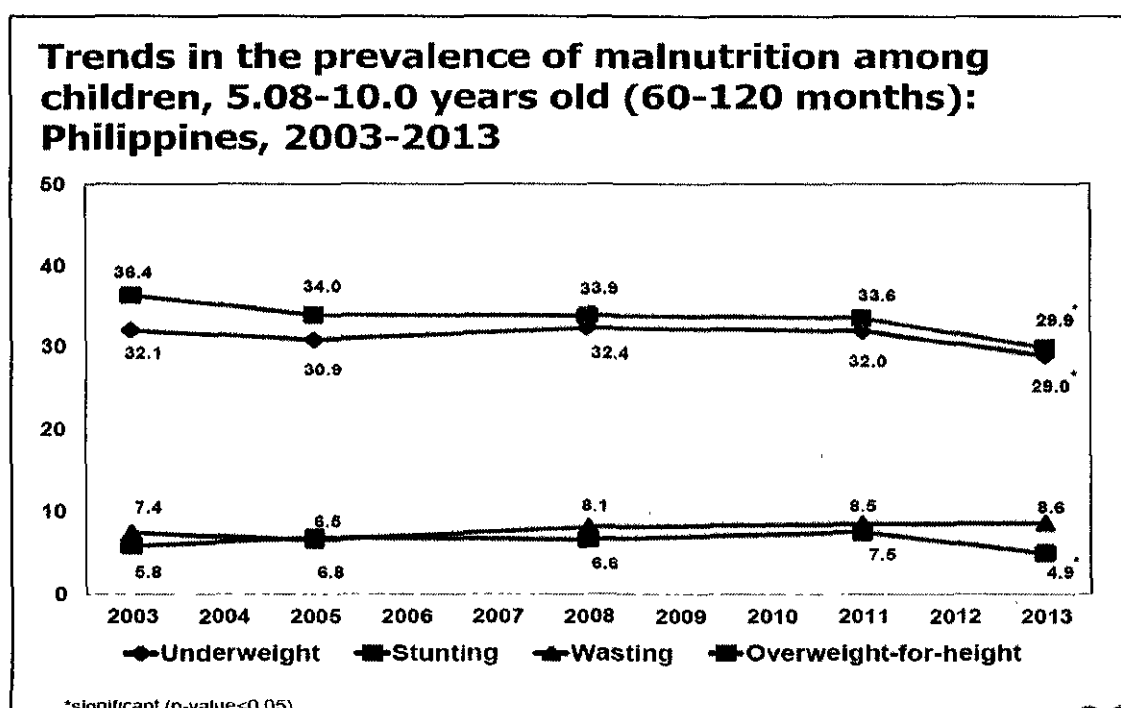
³ WHO classification for stunting: < 20% (low), 20-29% (medium), 30-39% (high), ≥ 40% (very high)

- Underweight incidence has declined from 27.4% in 1989 to 19.9% in 2013; (see graph below)



WHEREAS, the FNRI National Nutrition Surveys from 2003 to 2013 still show that malnutrition is prevalent among children aged from 5 to 10 years old:

- Wasting remains unchanged since 2003 (7.4%) to 2013 (8.6%);
- Stunting has been at a high² of 36.4% in 2003 to 29.9% in 2013; and
- Underweight incidence has not declined significantly - from 32.1% in 2003 to 29.1% in 2013



WHEREAS, the Philippines experienced increase in gross food production in all sectors, except vegetables, since 1990 with rice and corn production far surpassing all other sectors combined [Rice had a production level of 15.772 million metric tons for 2010 and a share of 19 percent to GDP for agriculture and total rice production increased by 5.47 percent (16.684 million metric tons) in 2011)];

WHEREAS, according to the UN World Food Programme, climate change is making natural disasters such as floods and droughts, more frequent and intense; land and water more scarce and difficult to access; and increases in agricultural productivity harder to achieve. Thus, these impacts are increasing the risk of hunger and the breakdown of food systems, and without considerable efforts to improve people's climate resilience, it is estimated that the risk of hunger and malnutrition could increase by up to 20 percent by 2050;

WHEREAS, the Philippines is vulnerable to a myriad of natural hazards like typhoons, flooding, landslides, earthquakes, and volcanic activities. Disasters such as these plunge women, men, and children into poverty, hunger, and malnutrition;

WHEREAS, it has long been recognized that the achievement of food and nutrition security in the country requires a multi-sectoral approach, thus needing the active involvement and participation of various government agencies like Agriculture, Agrarian Reform, Environment, Trade, Labor, Transport and Communications, Public Works, Energy, Education, Health, and Social Welfare;

WHEREAS, there are at least twenty-one (21) government agencies with mandates that directly and indirectly affect the production, provision, storage, transport, processing, marketing, research, and financing of food as well as efforts towards ensuring that people are able to buy nutritious food. However, there is no single lead agency that is responsible and accountable for food and nutrition security in this country;


WHEREAS, the National Nutrition Council created by Presidential Decree (PD) No. 491 in 1974 was mandated to "integrate policies and programs of all agencies and instrumentalities of the government charged with the prosecution of existing law, policies, rules and regulations concerning nutrition";

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Philippines, to direct the proper Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation to call on the appropriate Departments or Agencies of the government to identify bottlenecks on the cause/s of the unchanging patterns of malnutrition in the country and make recommendations on how to improve such nutritional state bearing in mind that nutritional well-being is a function of food and nutrition security in the country;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Philippines, to direct the proper Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation to call on the appropriate Departments or Agencies of the government to identify concerns and/or problems on the stages or segments of the food value chain, i.e., natural resources and inputs like seeds, chemicals, pesticides, credit farming, as well as harvesting and post-harvesting, processing, trading and transport, marketing and retailing, and consumption and to call on the appropriate Departments or Agencies of the government to make recommendations on how to improve or attain food security bearing in mind the importance of governance in food and nutrition security as well as the need to make food accessible to people, especially those in the lower quintiles;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to call on the appropriate Departments or Agencies of the government to take into consideration the effects of climate change and to ensure that, in spite of emergencies due to natural and man-made hazards and conflicts, food and nutrition security is assured among Filipinos, particularly those in the lowest quintiles.

Adopted,



SENATOR SONNY ANGARA