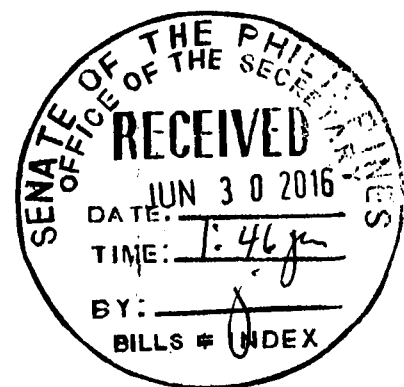


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

SENATE  
S. B. No. 23



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

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**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 "SCHOOL FEEDING PURCHASED FROM POOR FARMERS PROGRAM"**

**EXPLANATORY**

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

Despite tremendous efforts and improvements, the problem of poverty and malnutrition in the Philippines remained unchanged for more than a decade now. According to the Philippine Statistics Authority Report on the country's official poverty statistics, poverty incidence among Filipinos in the first semester of 2015 was estimated at 26.3 percent. During the first semester in 2012, poverty incidence among Filipinos was recorded at 27.9 percent. In the 2015 Global Hunger Index, the Philippines faces a "serious level" of hunger. The measuring tool of the International Food Policy Research Institute (FPRI) gave the country a score of 20.1 based on available data collated by government agencies and non-governmental organizations. The Philippines also ranks 51<sup>st</sup> among 117 countries measured. Hunger is a "multidimensional" problem, the index measured the situation in each country by combining 4 components: undernourishment, child wasting, child stunting, and child mortality. The proportion of undernourished in population stood at 13.5%, the prevalence of stunting in children under 5 years old stood at 30.3%. The high incidence of stunting – when a child is too short for his age – is alarming as it is a sign of chronic malnutrition. At least 795 million people still suffer from chronic undernourishment, according to the GHI. In addition, one in every 4 children is stunted while 9% of children worldwide are wasted. The index also found that there are huge disparities among regions.

In Brazil, their government used a portion of their funds to fight malnutrition and poverty (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 Php6.50 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 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.

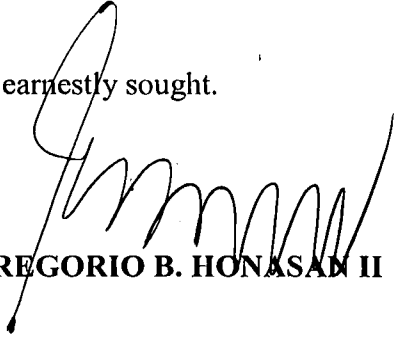
It is in this light that this bill mandating the provision of free food for children in public schools and day care centers from products of farmers purchased by the government otherwise known as "School Feeding Purchased From Poor Farmers Program" is being proposed.

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 proposed measure is earnestly sought.

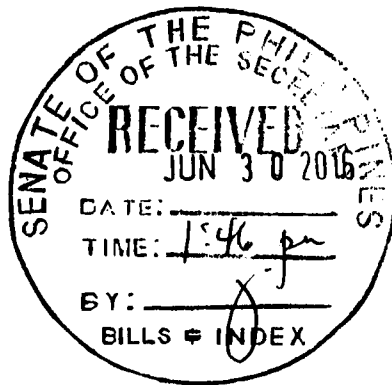


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AN ACT

**PROVIDING FREE FOOD FOR CHILDREN IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND DAY CARE CENTERS FROM PRODUCTS OF FARMERS PURCHASED BY THE GOVERNMENT OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "SCHOOL FEEDING PURCHASED FROM POOR FARMERS PROGRAM"**

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

1 SECTION 1. **Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "*School Feeding Purchased*  
2 *From Poor Farmers Program.*"

3 SEC. 2. **Declaration of Policy.** - It is the policy of the State to feed our children and  
4 secure their education. It is also the policy of the State to free our people from poverty by providing  
5 a guaranteed market for the products of our farmers, thereby promoting full employment in the  
6 agricultural sector, presently the sector with the highest poverty incidence.

7 SEC. 3. **Breakfast Feeding Program.** - A breakfast feeding program shall be mandatory  
8 in all public day care centers, preschools, and elementary schools. This breakfast feeding program  
9 shall be administered by the Secretary of the Department of Education.

10 School breakfasts shall be made available free of charge to school children in all public  
11 day care centers, preschools, and elementary schools. Feeding shall be done in the morning,  
12 preferably before the start of classes.

13 School breakfasts must meet the applicable recommendations of the Food and Nutrition  
14 Research Institute (FNRI). The decisions about what specific food to serve and how they are  
15 prepared shall be made by the school authorities, based on guidelines to be issued by the Secretary  
16 of the Department of Education.

17 SEC. 4. **Guaranteed Market for Farmers Fund.** - A Guaranteed Market for Farmers  
18 Fund shall be established which shall be administered by the Department of Education. Five  
19 Billion Pesos (Php5,000,000,000.00) shall be appropriated from the National Treasury for this  
20 purpose upon the effectivity of this Act. For every succeeding year thereafter, such amount shall  
21 be increased by increments of at least Five Billion Pesos (Php5,000,000,000.00).

22 SEC. 5. **Guaranteed Market for Farmers.** - Farmers, identified by the Department of  
23 Agriculture and the Department of Social Welfare and Development under the National Household  
24 Targeting Survey to be living in poverty, shall be given a guarantee that their produce shall be  
25 purchased by the government. The maximum amount to be allocated for each farmer shall be

1 determined so as to ensure that their net income shall not fall below the poverty threshold for their  
2 respective localities/regions.

3       **SEC. 6. Technical Training and Assistance.** - The Secretary of the Department of  
4 Education, in consultation with the Secretary of the Department of Health, the Director of the  
5 FNRI, and the Director-General/Secretary of the Technical Education and Skills Development  
6 Authority (TESDA), shall develop a program to provide the food service personnel of public day  
7 care centers, preschools, and elementary schools with technical training and assistance to prepare  
8 healthy meals. The same personnel shall be responsible for securing the produce of the identified  
9 farmers from the respective localities.

10       **SEC. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - Within ninety (90) days from the  
11 approval of this Act, the Secretary of the Department of Education, the Secretary of the Department  
12 of Health, the Secretary of Social Welfare and Development, the Secretary of Agriculture, in  
13 consultation with the Director of the FNRI, the Director-General/Secretary of the  
14 TESDA, and other appropriate government agencies, shall promulgate the rules and regulations to  
15 implement the provisions of this Act. Such rules and regulations shall take effect fifteen (15) days  
16 after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

17       **SEC. 8. Separability Clause.** - If any provision, or part hereof, is held invalid or  
18 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain  
19 valid and subsisting.

20       **SEC. 9. Repealing Clause.** - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order,  
21 letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with, the  
22 provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

23       **SEC. 10. Effectivity Clause.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
24 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

25       *Approved,*