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Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

**RESOLUTION**

**TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATUS AND PROGRESS OF THE PROGRAMS CREATED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO ADDRESS CHILD UNDERNUTRITION AND, IF NEEDED, CRAFT APPROPRIATE MEASURES, THEREBY SAFEGUARDING THE RIGHT TO HEALTH OF FILIPINO CHILDREN AGES ZERO (0) TO FIVE (5)**

**WHEREAS**, the 1987 Constitution provides that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them, endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at an affordable cost, especially to the children;

**WHEREAS**, ninety-five (95) children in the Philippines die from malnutrition per day. Twenty-seven (27) out of 1,000 Filipino children do not get past their fifth birthday. And, a third of Filipino children are stunted, or short for their age;

**WHEREAS**, according to the Food and Nutrition Research Institute-Department of Science and Technology (FNRI-DOST), "*One in three or 33.4% of Filipino children, five (5) years old and below, face a bleak future due to stunting*";

**WHEREAS**, to address this issue, the government has enacted laws, initiated various projects, and conducted numerous researches;

**WHEREAS**, on 30 June 2018, R.A. No. 11037 otherwise known as the, "*Masustansyang Pagkain Para sa Batang Pilipino Act*" was enacted wherein it established a National Feeding Program (NFP), created a National Nutrition

Information System, and ensured the participation of Local Government Units (LGUs) and Private Sectors;

**WHEREAS**, under the NFP, a Supplemental Feeding Program for Day Care Children is included wherein the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), in coordination with the LGUs concerned, shall have feeding programs in day care centers or in any other facility, for undernourished children ages three (3) to (5) five years old;

**WHEREAS**, on 29 November 2018, R.A. No. 11148 otherwise known as the, "*Kalusugan at Nutrisyon ng Mag-Nanay Act*" was enacted which guarantee the right to adequate food, care and nutrition to pregnant and lactating mothers and especially children from zero (0) to two (2) years old, shall be implemented by the Department of Health (DOH), in coordination with the National Nutritional Council (NCC);

**WHEREAS**, toward the same end, the Early Childhood and Development Council (ECDC) was also established that acts as the primary agency supporting the government's programs regarding health, nutrition, early education, and social services for children ages zero (0) to four (4) years;

**WHEREAS**, DOH initiated the "*Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition 2017-2022*" which consists of twelve (12) programs and forty-six (46) projects serving as a framework for actions. Of the twelve (12) programs, eight (8) are nutrition-specific, one (1) is nutrition-sensitive and three (3) are enabling support programs;

**WHEREAS**, DOH also initiated the "*National Nutrition Management Program*" under the NCC, where nutrition policy, standards, plan and program development and coordination, Philippine food and nutrition surveillance, promotion of good nutrition, assistance to national, local nutrition, and related programs, and locally-funded projects (ie. ECCO/Nutrition Intervention Package for the First 1000 days) are put in place;



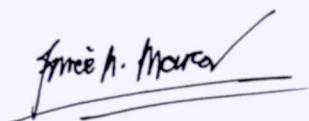
**WHEREAS,** DSWD issued Memorandum Circular No. 03, s. 2019, where the nutritional status of the underweight children beneficiaries shall be gauged after 120 days of feeding period (P15/day per child for hot meal composed of rice and viand or milk and alternative meals), and monthly, thereafter, for a period of six (6) months to achieve improved weight and maintain normal nutritional status;

**WHEREAS,** according to the nutrition-agriculture sensitive study of the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA), food security is another factor that affects undernourished children and is continuously being challenged by poor agricultural productivity brought about by climate change, environmental degradation, higher input cost, low farm income and lack of competitiveness;

**WHEREAS,** extensive work must be made to address undernutrition. There is a need to examine and review existing data and statistics to undertake a better and comprehensive assessment on the present issue and determine the appropriate measures to be taken that is inclusive of all programs, intervention, budget-allocation, formulation of strategic policy, and such other appropriate programs;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED,** to direct the appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the status and progress of the programs created by the government to address child undernutrition and, if needed, craft appropriate measures, thereby safeguarding the right to health of Filipino children ages zero (0) to five (5).

*Adopted,*

  
**IMEE R. MARCOS**