

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES }
Second Regular Session

6 JUN -7 P3:20

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: S. No. 2310

INTRODUCED BY HON. MANNY VILLAR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Nearly 72 percent of Filipino households are not meeting their daily energy requirements simply because they are poor and cannot afford nutritious food. The Food and Nutrition Research Institute's study conducted in 1990 showed that 13.9 percent of our pre-school children were affected by protein energy malnutrition. The same study also showed that 7.6 percent of Filipino children suffered from acute malnutrition and 1.4 percent suffered severe chronic malnutrition.

Malnutrition hampers the growth of a child and affects his education, productivity and employability. The country's malnutrition problem needs a more lasting solution. It calls for an integrated development approach that complements traditional nutrition interventions. The Barangay Integrated Development Approach for Nutrition Improvement (BIDANI) is one such approach.

BIDANI is an action-research program spearheaded by state colleges and universities for the last fourteen years. It operationalizes the philosophy that nutrition is a basic human right and should be provided to those incapable of having it.

This bill seeks the institutionalization of the BIDANI network program in participating state colleges and universities as a regular program that addresses the nutritional and general well being of the poor. Once approved, the national government is assured of a partner in providing proper nutrition to the people, particularly to the poor. Likewise, it shall ensure the promotion of a healthy and productive citizenry.

In view of the importance of this measure, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


MANNY VILLAR

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**AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE BARANGAY INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT
APPROACH FOR NUTRITION IMPROVEMENT (BIDANI) OF THE RURAL
POOR AS A NETWORK PROGRAM OF PARTICIPATING STATE COLLEGES
AND UNIVERSITIES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "BIDANI Act of 2005."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to recognize nutrition as a basic human right, just as the rights to health and to life are. Toward this end, the State shall promote vigorously the importance of nutrition as a public good and public concern that can be achieved only through multisectoral efforts and democratic process. It shall work towards the provision of the nutritional needs of the poor sector of the Filipino society who are deprived of said right. Further, the State shall give utmost support to programs and projects that are responsive to the nutritional needs of the people.

SECTION 3. This Act shall have the following objectives:

(a) To encourage cooperation and participation of academic institutions and local governments in promoting the nutritional well-being of the country;

(b) To evolve, among state colleges and universities, an effective action research network program that will improve the nutrition and general well-being of the rural poor thereby assisting in the development of local communities;

(c) To enhance the productivity and employability of the rural poor by improving their nutritional and life status.

SECTION 4. Definition of Terms. - As used in this Act, the term:

(a) Barangay Integrated Development Approach for Nutrition Improvement (BIDANI) refers to a nutrition-in-development action research program which aims to assist the national government in improving the nutrition and general well-being of the rural poor; and

(b) Participating state colleges and universities refer to state colleges and universities adopting and implementing the BIDANI network program as a regular nutrition program.

SECTION 5. Institutionalization of the Barangay Integrated Development Approach for Nutrition Development. - The Barangay Integrated Development Approach

for Nutrition Development is hereby institutionalized as nutrition program in participating state colleges and universities, in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 6. Promulgation of Rules and Regulations. - The National Nutrition Council in coordination with the participating state colleges and universities shall prepare and issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 7. Funding and Appropriations. - The amount necessary for the implementation of the BIDANI network program is hereby annually appropriated and included in the budget of participating state colleges and universities in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

Participating state colleges and universities may also get funds, donations and other forms of financial support from foreign and local persons, institutions and governments for the implementation of the BIDANI network program. Donations from local donors shall be deductible from their taxable income.

SECTION 8. - Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act is declared void and unconstitutional, the remaining provisions thereof not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. - Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SECTION 10. - Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

Approved,