

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



'16 JUL 20 P 4 :25

SENATE  
S.B. No. 694

REGISTERED BY:

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

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**AN ACT CREATING A SYSTEM OF FOOD PURCHASE SUPPORTING LOCAL PRODUCTION AND  
A PROGRAM OF DISTRIBUTION ADDRESSING THE NUTRITIONAL NEEDS OF CHILDREN**

**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 infants, 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 to 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bam Aquino". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bam" being more prominent.

**Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV**



1 nutrition. The database shall identify the most vulnerable individuals and/or groups to be  
2 listed as *beneficiaries*.

3 **SEC. 5. Menu list preparation.** — DSWD and DepEd, in coordination with DOH, shall  
4 prepare a menu list of food products that can be served to infants and public kindergarten  
5 and elementary schoolchildren. The menu list needs to be drawn up according to age  
6 range, type of school and the hours that students spend in school. When two meals are  
7 served, at least thirty percent (30%) of daily nutritional requirements should be provided.  
8 In schools with a full-day curriculum, the minimum shall be seventy percent (70%). The  
9 menu shall be based on a thorough assessment of the nutritional needs of infants and  
10 students that shall be conducted on the basis of the Recommended Dietary Allowance  
11 (RDA) for protein, calcium, iron, Vitamin A, Vitamin C, and calories for infants and  
12 schoolchildren set by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI), as well as with the  
13 farming culture and diets of every local government unit. The implementing agencies may  
14 also consult with the National Nutrition Council (NNC).

15 **SEC. 6. Technical Training and Assistance on Food Preparation, Safety, and**  
16 **Sanitation.** — DSWD and DepEd, in consultation with DOH, and the Technical Education  
17 and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and other appropriate government agencies,  
18 shall develop a program to provide the food service personnel and/or other suppliers for  
19 the feeding program with technical training and assistance in the preparation of healthy  
20 and nutritious meals, food safety, and sanitation.

21 **SEC. 7. Infant Feeding Program.** — The DOH, in consultation with DSWD, shall create  
22 a system of distribution through the Barangay Health Workers of food packets to  
23 supplement the nutritional and dietary needs of children aged 0 -1 year<sup>s</sup> old.

24 **SEC. 8. Supplementary Feeding Program.** — The DSWD shall ensure that children  
25 aged 2 – 5 receive the proper nutrients and diet while under its care. Beneficiaries shall be  
26 given meals that will meet their nutritional needs. The following shall be the beneficiaries:

- 27 a) Children 2 – 4 years old in the Supervised Neighborhood Play (SNP) Area;  
28 b) Children 3 – 4 years old enrolled in Day Care Centers; and  
29 c) Children 5 years old not enrolled in the Department of Education (DepEd)  
30 preschool system but enrolled in Day Care Centers.

31 **SEC. 9. Elementary School Feeding Program.** — The DepEd shall ensure that  
32 students from kindergarten to grade 6 are given the proper meals during school hours.  
33 When two meals are served, at least thirty percent (30%) of daily nutritional requirements  
34 should be provided. In schools with a full-day curriculum, the minimum shall be seventy  
35 percent (70%).

36 **SEC. 10. National Nutrition Distribution System.** — The National Feeding Program  
37 shall be implemented initially in locations identified to have the most number of  
38 beneficiaries based on the National Nutrition Targeting System. For the first two years of  
39 implementation, the program shall cover at least thirty percent (30%) of the areas identified

1 by the National Nutrition Targeting System. On the third and fourth year, the next 30%  
2 (thirty percent) of areas identified shall be included in the program. The rest of the country  
3 shall be included in the program in the fifth to sixth years of its implementation.

4 **Chapter II**  
5 **Procurement**

6 **SEC. 11 Procurement of Produce.** — The government is hereby mandated to ensure  
7 that 30% or more of the supplies needed to implement the National Feeding Program are  
8 procured from Small-Scale Producers.

9 **SEC. 12 Registry of Small-Scale Producers.** — The Department of Agriculture (DA)  
10 shall keep and regularly update a list of Small-Scale Producers. It shall use the Registry for  
11 Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA), Regional Field Office (RFO) list of beneficiaries, the  
12 Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources' National Program for Municipal Fisherfolk  
13 Registration (BFAR FishR) for fisherfolk, and any other list it may deem necessary to keep  
14 the registry up to date. Furthermore, the DA is required to coordinate with the DSWD to  
15 cross-match and compare the registry with the DSWD's National Household Targeting  
16 System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR) to avoid duplication and redundancy.

17 **SEC. 13. Procurement Process for Small-Scale Producers.** — For the purposes of this  
18 Act, procurement from Small-Scale producers shall be exempted from the procurement  
19 process as stated in Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the Procurement Law.  
20 Provided that the Small-Scale Producers shall undergo Negotiated Procurement  
21 Participation under the guidelines of the Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) and  
22 specified under this Act.

23 **SEC. 14. Negotiated Procurement Participation.** — Small-Scale Producers shall enter  
24 a Negotiated Procurement with the government under the guidelines of the GPPB when the  
25 following conditions are met:

26 a) DA Validation – certification from the DA and/or any of its tasked agency that the  
27 individual or family is indeed included in the Registry of Small-Scale farmers;

28 b) Produce/Product Sustainability – when participants have the ability to continue to  
29 meet the demand for their produce or product for prolonged periods of time, with  
30 or without government intervention;

31 c) Community Enrichment – when there is a viable means of improving the well-  
32 being of the community where the Small-Scale farmers are situated. This seeks to  
33 extend the benefits that may arise from the contract between the Small-Scale  
34 farmers and the government. The goal is to achieve positive outcomes such as  
35 poverty reduction, access to education, equitable distribution and management of  
36 natural resources, climate change adaptation/mitigation, disaster risk reduction,  
37 gender equality, disease reduction, and job generation, among others.

1           **SEC. 15. Support Services for Small-Scale Producers under the Department of**  
2 **Agriculture.** – The DA shall institute the following benefits for Small-Scale Producers as  
3 contained in their registry:

4           a) Training on production, harvesting, the procurement process of this Act, and any  
5 other topic the DA sees fit;

6           b) Subsidized farm equipment;

7           c) Facilities for storage and harvesting;

8           d) Capacity building for Small-Scale farmers;

9           e) Access to crop insurance;

10          f) Access to credit/low interest rates.

11           **SEC. 16. Support Services for Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries who are Small-Scale**  
12 **Producers.** – The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) shall institute the following benefits  
13 for Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries who are Small-Scale Producers as contained in their list of  
14 beneficiaries:

15          a) Training on production, harvesting, the procurement process of this Act, and any  
16 other topic the DA sees fit;

17          b) Subsidized farm equipment;

18          c) Facilities for storage and harvesting;

19          d) Capacity building for Small-Scale farmers;

20          e) Access to crop insurance;

21          f) Access to credit/low interest rates.

22           **SEC. 17. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within sixty (60) days from the  
23 effectivity of this Act, the Department of Education in coordination with the Department of  
24 Agriculture, Department of Health, Department of Social Welfare and Development and  
25 Local Government Units shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the  
26 implementation of this Act.

27           **SEC. 18. Periodic Review.** - The implementing agencies shall submit an annual report  
28 to Congress on the progress in the implementation of this Act.

29           **SEC. 19. Appropriations.** – The funds needed to implement this Act shall be included  
30 in the annual General Appropriations Act.

31           **SEC. 20. Separability Clause.** – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or  
32 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall  
33 remain valid and subsisting.

1           **SEC. 21. Repealing Clause.** — All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or  
2 other issuances or parts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or  
3 modified accordingly.

4           **SEC. 22. Effectivity.** — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication  
5 in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

6           *Approved,*