

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
*Third Regular Session*

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24 JUL 10 P1:12

**SENATE**

**S. No. 2728**

RECEIVED BY:

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**Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada**

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**AN ACT**  
**EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF THE NATIONAL FEEDING PROGRAM TO**  
**INCLUDE SECONDARY SCHOOLS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC**  
**ACT NO. 11037 OR THE "MASUSTANSYANG PAGKAIN PARA SA BATANG**  
**PILIPINO ACT"**

A World Bank report has estimated that the burden brought by childhood undernutrition on the Philippine economy was at USD 4.4 billion or around 1.5% of our GDP in 2015<sup>1</sup>. The same report has found that childhood undernutrition could lead to a staggering loss of our country's human and economic potential, as such, eliminating malnutrition could improve a child's development and future employability, and increase our country's GDP by a significant amount. It stresses further that investments in nutrition are highly cost-effective.

The latest Expanded National Nutrition Survey of the Food and Nutrition Research Institute has found that adolescents (aged 10 to 19 years old) from rural areas and those from the poorest households showed higher prevalence of stunting compared to their counterparts in urban areas and richer households<sup>2</sup>. Adolescence is a pivotal time in a person's life, particularly in terms of growth and development. Proper nutrition undeniably plays a key role in this, especially with regard to a student's

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<sup>1</sup> Mbuya, N. V. N., Demombynes, G., Piza, S. F. A., and Adona, A. J. V. (2021) "Undernutrition in the Philippines: Scale, Scope, and Opportunities for Nutrition Policy and Programming." World Bank Group.

<sup>2</sup> Department of Science and Technology – Food and Nutrition Research Institute. "Philippine Nutrition Facts and Figures 2018 – 2019: Expanded National Nutrition Survey (ENNS)". May 2022.

concentration, cognitive functions, and overall academic performance. As such, the provision of fortified meals to students, replete with essential nutrients is important.

Unfortunately, this is not readily available to all students, particularly those from households in the lowest quantiles who may have limited access to adequate nutritional meals at home. This bill seeks to expand the coverage of the National Feeding Program to include children in secondary schools as beneficiaries. Undernutrition can hamper a learner's ability to perform well in class--affecting their thinking skills, behavior, and overall health. Healthier students are less likely to have fewer absences and improved learning behavior, yielding in better and optimized learning in class.

In view of the foregoing, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



**JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA**

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
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*Third Regular Session*

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24 JUL 10 P1:13

SENATE

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**AN ACT**  
**EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF THE NATIONAL FEEDING PROGRAM TO**  
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**PILIPINO ACT"**

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

1 Section 1. Section 4 (b) of Republic Act No. 11037 otherwise known as the  
2 "Masustansyang Pagkain para sa Batang Pilipino Act" is hereby amended to read as  
3 follows:

4 "Section 4. (b) School-Based Feeding Program. – The DepED shall  
5 implement a school-based feeding program for undernourished public school  
6 children from kindergarten to grade [~~six~~(6)] **TWELVE (12)**: *Provided*, That  
7 the Program shall include the provision of at least one (1) fortified meal to all  
8 undernourished public **KINDERGARTEN**, elementary, **AND SECONDARY**  
9 school children for a period of not less than one hundred twenty (120) days in  
10 a year[;] **PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT THE COST OF THE**  
11 **AFOREMENTIONED MEALS SHALL ENSURE THAT SCHOOL CHILDREN**  
12 **RECEIVE THE APPROPRIATE AMOUNT OF NUTRITION, WHICH MAY**  
13 **BE ADJUSTED EVERY YEAR TO ACCOUNT FOR INFLATION AND FOR**  
14 **NUTRITIONAL ADJUSTMENTS AS RECOMMENDED BY FNRI:**  
15 **PROVIDED, FURTHERMORE, THAT FOR EACH SCHOOL DIVISION OF**  
16 **DEPED, MEAL DISTRIBUTION AND OTHER OVERHEAD COSTS OF THE**

