



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 7193

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VILLARIN, BENITEZ, TEJADA, BATAOIL, RAMOS, LACSON,  
PRIMICIAS-AGABAS, MARCOLETA, SANGCOPAN AND BORDADO,  
PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 614

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AN ACT PROVIDING A FRAMEWORK FOR THE RIGHT TO  
ADEQUATE FOOD, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR  
VIOLATION THEREOF

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

1           SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the  
2 "Right to Adequate Food Framework Act".

3           SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - Consistent with the  
4 principles enshrined in the Constitution as well as the provisions of  
5 the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural  
6 Rights, Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Convention  
7 on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women,

1 to which the Philippines is a State Party, it is hereby declared the  
2 policy of the State to guarantee the right to adequate food.

3 Adequate food is not a matter of charity, but a legal  
4 entitlement. Hunger is inconsistent with human dignity and  
5 human rights, and must be eliminated. The State shall provide  
6 for a framework to address and eliminate hunger in an organized  
7 manner.

8 SEC. 3. *Definitions.* – As used in this Act:

9 (a) *Food* refers to solid, liquid and semi-liquid nourishment,  
10 as well as drinking water, and when taken into the body serves to  
11 nourish, build and repair tissues, supply energy, or regulate body  
12 processes;

13 (b) *Food blockade* refers to an act of cutting off food supplies  
14 from a particular area by force, either in part or totally;

15 (c) *Food emergency* refers to a situation in which access to  
16 food is endangered, as that caused by natural events like drought,  
17 floods, storms, earthquakes, or crop failures resulting from pests  
18 or diseases; or by human agency such as internal or international  
19 armed conflict;

20 (d) *Hunger* refers to a condition in which people do not get  
21 enough food to eat to provide the necessary nutrients for fully  
22 productive, active and healthy living due to the unavailability and  
23 inaccessibility of food. It can be acute, such as during a major  
24 disaster when food supply channels are cut, or chronic, when people  
25 are regularly not getting enough food to conduct an active life for  
26 a long time.

1           It is also a condition of starvation, which is not having  
2 enough food of any sort to eat, or undernourishment, which is  
3 having enough food to eat, but of inadequate quality;

4           (e) *Right to adequate food* refers to the right to have regular,  
5 permanent and unrestricted access, either directly or by means of  
6 financial purchases, to quantitatively and qualitatively adequate,  
7 sufficient and safe food, corresponding to the cultural traditions of  
8 the people to which a consumer belongs, and which ensure physical  
9 and mental, individual and collective, fulfilling and dignified life,  
10 free of fear; and

11           (f) *Vulnerable groups* refer to those who are particularly  
12 disadvantaged. These include indigenous peoples, ethnic, linguistic  
13 or religious minorities, persons with disabilities, persons living  
14 with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) or Acquired Immune  
15 Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), refugees and internally displaced  
16 people, elderly, women, including pregnant and lactating mothers  
17 and children, particularly those from zero to twenty-three (23)  
18 months of age.

19           SEC. 4. *Normative Content.* – The right to adequate food  
20 is realized when every man, woman and child, alone or in  
21 community with others, have physical and economic access at  
22 all times to adequate food, or means for its procurement. The  
23 right to adequate food must not be interpreted in a narrow  
24 or restrictive sense, which equates it with a minimum package  
25 of calories, proteins and other specific nutrients. The right to  
26 adequate food must be realized progressively. However, States  
27 have the core obligation to take the necessary action to mitigate

1 and alleviate hunger, even in times of natural or other disasters.  
2 The right to be free from hunger ensures a minimum daily  
3 nutritional intake and the bare survival of a person. The right to  
4 adequate food goes beyond freedom from hunger. Central to  
5 the realization of the right to adequate food is an adequacy  
6 standard in terms of quality, quantity and cultural acceptability,  
7 sustainability of food availability and access.

8 (a) The *concept of adequacy* is particularly significant since  
9 it underlines a number of factors which must be taken into  
10 account in determining whether particular foods or diets that are  
11 accessible can be considered the most appropriate under given  
12 circumstances. The notion of sustainability is intrinsically linked  
13 to the notion of adequate food or food security, implying that food  
14 must be accessible to both present and future generations. The  
15 precise meaning of adequacy is to a large extent determined by  
16 prevailing social, economic, cultural, climatic, ecological and  
17 other conditions, while sustainability incorporates the notion of  
18 long-term availability and accessibility.

19 (b) The *core content of the right to adequate food* implies:

20 (1) The availability of food in a quantity and quality  
21 sufficient to satisfy the dietary needs of individuals, free from  
22 adverse substances, and acceptable within a given culture.

23 (2) The accessibility of such food in ways that are  
24 sustainable, and do not interfere with the enjoyment of other  
25 human rights.

26 (c) *Dietary needs* refer to the diet as a whole that contains  
27 a mix of nutrients for physical and mental growth, development

1 and maintenance, and physical activity, that are in compliance  
2 with human physiological needs at all stages throughout the life  
3 cycle, and according to gender and occupation. Measures therefore  
4 need to be taken to maintain, adapt or strengthen dietary diversity  
5 and appropriate consumption and feeding patterns, including  
6 optimal breastfeeding, as well as to ensure that changes in  
7 availability and access to food supply as a minimum do not  
8 negatively affect dietary composition and intake.

9 (d) *Freedom from adverse substances* refers to the  
10 requirements for food safety and for a range of protective  
11 measures by both public and private means to prevent  
12 contamination of foodstuff through adulteration, or through bad  
13 environmental hygiene, or inappropriate handling at different  
14 stages throughout the food chain. Care must also be taken to  
15 identify and avoid or destroy naturally occurring toxins.

16 (e) *Cultural or consumer acceptability* refers to the need to  
17 take into account, as far as possible, perceived non nutrient-based  
18 values attached to food and food consumption and informed  
19 consumer concerns regarding the nature of accessible food supplies.

20 (f) *The concept of availability* refers to the possibilities either  
21 for feeding oneself directly from productive land or other natural  
22 resources, or for well-functioning distribution, processing and  
23 market systems that can move food from the site of production to  
24 where it is needed in accordance with demand.

25 (g) *Accessibility* refers to economic and physical accessibility:

26 (1) *Economic accessibility* means personal or household  
27 financial costs associated with the acquisition of food for an

1 adequate diet should be at a level such that the attainment  
2 and satisfaction of other basic needs are not threatened, or  
3 compromised. Economic accessibility applies to any acquisition  
4 pattern or entitlement through which people procure their food,  
5 and is a measure of the extent to which it is satisfactory for the  
6 enjoyment of the right to adequate food. Socially vulnerable groups  
7 such as landless persons and other particularly impoverished  
8 segments of the population may need attention through special  
9 programs.

10 (2) *Physical accessibility* means that adequate food must be  
11 accessible to everyone, including physically vulnerable individuals,  
12 such as infants and young children, elderly people, those belonging  
13 to the informal sector, the physically disabled, the terminally ill  
14 and persons with persistent medical problems, including the  
15 mentally ill. Victims of natural disasters, people living in  
16 disaster-prone areas and other specially disadvantaged groups  
17 need special attention and priority consideration with respect  
18 to accessibility of food. A particular vulnerability is that  
19 of many indigenous peoples groups whose access to their  
20 ancestral lands is threatened.

21 SEC. 5. *Conditions for the Exercise of the Right to*  
22 *Adequate Food.* - Every person has the right to live in  
23 conditions that will enable the person:

24 (a) To feed directly from productive land or other natural  
25 resources; or rely on well-functioning food distribution, processing  
26 and market systems, or both;

1           (b) To financially acquire a sufficient quantity and quality of  
2 food and to satisfy other basic needs;

3           (c) To be safe from the risk of losing access to food, as a  
4 consequence of sudden shocks, like an economic or climatic crisis,  
5 or one that is brought about by internal displacements of people, or  
6 cyclical events, such as seasonal food insecurity;

7           (d) To have the opportunity of good food utilization through  
8 access to adequate diet, clean water, sanitation and health care  
9 and to reach a state of nutritional well-being, where all  
10 physiological needs are met; and

11           (e) To access food or diet that is the most appropriate  
12 under given circumstances, in terms of their nutritional value  
13 and cultural acceptability.

14           Every infant, girl and boy has a right to adequate food and  
15 to optimal health, development and nutrition adequate for their  
16 age, growth and development.

17           Every woman has a right to adequate food and adequate  
18 nutrition during pregnancy and lactation.

19           No limitation on the right to adequate food may be allowed,  
20 unless it is provided by law, is necessary for the purpose of a  
21 compelling public interest, and is compatible with the nature of  
22 the right to adequate food.

23           SEC. 6. *Freedom from Hunger.* – Every person has a right  
24 to be free from hunger. Every person suffering from hunger  
25 or undernutrition, or at risk of suffering from hunger or  
26 undernutrition is entitled to a minimum amount of food

1 according to one's age, sex, health status and occupation, as  
2 provided for in Section 13 of this Act.

3       SEC. 7. *Nondiscrimination.* – Any distinction, exclusion or  
4 restriction made on the basis of race, color, sex, age, language,  
5 religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin,  
6 property, birth or other status, which has the effect or purpose of  
7 impairing or limiting the capacity of an individual to exercise the  
8 right to adequate food, is unlawful and will be sanctioned in  
9 accordance with law.

10       All forms of discrimination against women with regard to  
11 the guaranteed right to adequate food, including less favorable  
12 treatment of women for reasons of pregnancy and maternity,  
13 shall be eliminated and prevented. The equality of opportunities  
14 between men and women shall be promoted.

15       The prohibition of discrimination will not include government  
16 action to remedy past effects of discrimination against particular  
17 individuals or groups and to promote equality of opportunities with  
18 regard to the right to adequate food.

19       SEC. 8. *Principles.* – The principles upon which the provisions  
20 of this Act are founded are:

21       (a) *Participation.* – People should be able to determine  
22 their own well-being and participate in the planning, design,  
23 monitoring and evaluation of decisions affecting them. Individuals  
24 are able to take part in the conduct of public affairs, including the  
25 adoption and implementation of State policies. Such participation  
26 is active, free and meaningful, whether it is exercised directly or  
27 through intermediary organizations representing specific interests.



1 It is supported by capacity building and appropriate integrative  
2 mechanisms where necessary.

3 (b) *Accountability*. – Public officials are answerable to  
4 their superiors and to the people they serve. Application of  
5 the principle of accountability in the context of the right to  
6 adequate food framework under this Act requires clear assignment  
7 of responsibilities and functions to public authorities for the  
8 implementation and compliance with the framework and any  
9 subsequent measures to be taken. In addition, the expected  
10 results are spelled out clearly and appropriate procedures are  
11 established.

12 (c) *Nondiscrimination*. – The protection for human rights  
13 must be objectively and reasonably be the same for everybody,  
14 irrespective of sex, age, race, color, religion or any other  
15 ground. In addition to specifically prohibiting discrimination on  
16 any ground, this principle requires specific measures aimed at  
17 correcting *de facto* discrimination or eliminating conditions that  
18 cause or help to perpetuate discrimination, as well as measures  
19 promoting equality. In the context of this Act, it means paying  
20 particular attention to those groups that cannot enjoy their rights  
21 as fully as others.

22 (d) *Transparency*. – The public should be given free and  
23 open access to timely and reliable information on the decisions  
24 and performance of public authorities. Holders of public office  
25 are as open as possible about all their decisions and actions  
26 that may affect the free exercise of the right to adequate food.  
27 Applying the principle of transparency within the context of

1 this Act means that people are provided with essential  
2 information about the decision-making process and those  
3 accountable and responsible for it. The people also have the  
4 power to demand information on the processes that feed into  
5 the achievement of the particular entitlement, which provide an  
6 easy and low-cost corrective check to malfeasance.

7 (e) *Human Dignity.* – Persons have absolute and inherent  
8 worth, simply because they are humans, and not by virtue of  
9 any social status or a particular power. This Act recognizes in  
10 an unequivocal form that every person has a right to adequate  
11 food. To comply with this principle in the implementation of  
12 this Act, the State, through its public officials, must treat  
13 persons equally and respect their human worth and dignity.

14 (f) *Empowerment.* – The people have the power, capacity,  
15 capability and access means to improve their own lives, including  
16 the power to seek from the State remedies for violations of  
17 their human rights. This principle is the logical consequence  
18 of all the preceding principles. In the context of this Act,  
19 empowerment entails specific provisions for awareness-raising,  
20 capacity building and education on the right to adequate food.

21 (g) *Rule of Law.* – Government authority is legitimately  
22 exercised only in accordance with written, publicly disclosed  
23 and accessible laws adopted and enforced in conformity with  
24 established procedures. The principle is intended as a safeguard  
25 against arbitrary use of State authority and lawless acts  
26 of both organizations and individuals. Rules and regulations  
27 to be adopted for ensuring the implementation of this Act

1 shall be clear, fair and accessible. The rule of law also means  
2 that no person or body can breach the law with impunity.  
3 There is access to justice including the right to an effective  
4 remedy for anyone whose rights are violated, as well as the  
5 guarantee of due process in all legal proceedings.

6       SEC. 9. *Governmental Obligations.* – The State has the  
7 duty to respect, protect and fulfill the right to adequate food.

8       (a) *Respect.* – The State has the obligation not to  
9 interfere with or impair the enjoyment of the right to adequate  
10 food. No public authority may deprive any person of food  
11 or means for its procurement, apply laws and regulations, or  
12 pursue a policy or practice, in a way that could result in  
13 preventing the enjoyment of or infringing the human right to  
14 adequate food, or repeal formally or suspend legislation  
15 necessary for the continued enjoyment of the right to adequate food.

16       (b) *Protect.* – The State has the duty to provide guarantees  
17 against threats and risks stemming from private actors or  
18 societal forces that are controllable by State action. It is  
19 bound to take preventive measures necessary to protect persons  
20 whose capacities to access sufficient and adequate food or  
21 means for its procurement are endangered by the acts of  
22 others. It also must review the relevant administrative and  
23 legislative framework ensuring that activities within their  
24 competence undertaken by private actors do not infringe on the  
25 right to adequate food of others.

26       (c) *Fulfill.* – The State has the power to facilitate the  
27 enjoyment of the right to adequate food by adopting or pursuing

1 appropriate policies and measures that promote the human  
2 right to adequate food and to create and maintain conditions  
3 under which every person can freely and regularly enjoy the  
4 right to adequate food. It is equally the duty of the State to  
5 provide for right to adequate food, by adopting and putting in  
6 place measures to provide food, or means for its procurement,  
7 to persons who cannot take care of their own needs due to  
8 reasons beyond their control, in particular for children whose  
9 parents die, disappear or otherwise no longer take care of them.

10 SEC. 10. *Targets.* - The State shall ensure that in two  
11 and a half (2½) years after the effectivity of this Act, the incidence  
12 of hunger will be reduced by twenty-five percent (25%), from  
13 the level recorded at the time of the passage of this Act: *Provided,*  
14 That five (5) years after the effectivity of this Act, such incidence  
15 of hunger will be further reduced by twenty-five percent (25%):  
16 *Provided, further,* That in seven and a half (7½) years, it will be  
17 further reduced by twenty-five percent (25%): *Provided, finally,*  
18 That in ten (10) years, there shall be a zero incidence of hunger.

19 The State shall also ensure that within ten (10) years  
20 from the effectivity of this Act, land devoted to food production  
21 will be increased to fifty percent (50%) of all prime agricultural  
22 land in every region, and, within the same period, the State shall  
23 ensure that the following indicators will considerably and steadily  
24 increase:

- 25 (a) Percentage of development of ancestral lands;  
26 (b) Percentage of rural population with access to productive  
27 resources;

1 (c) Share of budget spent on programs aimed at creating  
2 access to productive resources;

3 (d) Percentage of budget spent on agri-research,  
4 agri-extension, irrigation, training, technology, credits and  
5 rural development;

6 (e) Percentage of rural female-headed households, or  
7 rural women, with legal title to agriculture lands;

8 (f) Percentage of public budget allocation for social transfer  
9 programs to those unable to feed themselves;

10 (g) Coverage of marginalized and disadvantaged population  
11 taking part in social transfer programs;

12 (h) Percentage of marginalized and disadvantaged population  
13 covered by a public nutrition supplement program;

14 (i) Percentage of population aware of available food and  
15 nutrition programs; and

16 (j) Coverage of school feeding programs.

17 The percentages of the foregoing indicators shall also be  
18 stipulated in the implementing rules and regulations of this Act.

19 Periodic reviews will be undertaken to ensure compliance  
20 with set targets. In the implementation of this Act, priority  
21 will be given to identify areas with chronically malnourished  
22 population. In measuring the incidence of hunger, the key  
23 primary data sources will include national nutrition surveys,  
24 household surveys of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA),  
25 namely the Family Income and Expenditure Survey and the  
26 Annual Poverty Indicators Survey, and global hunger indices as  
27 benchmarks.

1           **SEC. 11. *Institutional Responsibilities.*** - The following  
2 agencies of the government are required to fulfill their respective  
3 mandates in a manner that will ensure full implementation  
4 of the primary objectives of this Act:

5           (a) Department of Agriculture (DA);

6           (b) Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR);

7           (c) Department of Education (DepED);

8           (d) Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
9 (DENR);

10          (e) Department of Health (DOH);

11          (f) Department of the Interior and Local Government  
12 (DILG);

13          (g) Department of Justice (DOJ);

14          (h) Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE);

15          (i) Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH);

16          (j) Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD);

17          (k) Department of Science and Technology (DOST);

18          (l) Department of Trade and Industry (DTI);

19          (m) Commission on Human Rights (CHR);

20          (n) National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC);

21          (o) National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA);

22          (p) National Food Authority (NFA);

23          (q) National Nutrition Council (NNC);

24          (r) Technical Education and Skills Development Authority  
25 (TESDA); and

1           (s) Other agencies and instrumentalities of the government  
2 whose functions are necessary for the efficient and effective  
3 implementation of the right to adequate food.

4           In addition, the development of the capacity to implement  
5 the national policy governing the right to adequate food and the  
6 use of a human-rights based approach for the establishment and  
7 implementation of the national policy must be institutionalized.

8           SEC. 12. *Commission on the Right to Adequate Food.* –

9 There is hereby created a Commission on the Right to Adequate  
10 Food, hereinafter referred to as the Commission, which shall be  
11 attached to the Office of the President.

12           The Commission shall be the primary policy-making and  
13 coordinating body to guarantee full exercise of the right to  
14 adequate food. It shall exercise monitoring and oversight  
15 functions, apply human rights principles, conduct objective impact  
16 assessment on all government policies, programs and projects  
17 prior to adoption and implementation, work in close cooperation  
18 with civil society organizations and use all available resources  
19 of the government and private bodies or organizations for the  
20 efficient and effective implementation of this Act. It shall  
21 formulate a national food policy and implement programs of  
22 action to eradicate hunger, in coordination with relevant  
23 government agencies and in consultations with civil society  
24 organizations and the private sector.

25           The Commission will have the following powers:

26           (a) Receive complaints of violations of the right to adequate  
27 food from individuals and groups;

1 (b) Investigate, *motu proprio*, or upon complaint by any  
2 party, all forms of violations of the right to adequate food;

3 (c) Adopt operational guidelines and rules of procedure,  
4 and cite for contempt for their violation, in accordance with the  
5 Rules of Court;

6 (d) Provide appropriate legal measures for the protection of  
7 the right to adequate food of all persons within the Philippines,  
8 as well as Philippine citizens residing abroad, and provide for  
9 preventive measures and legal aid services to the underprivileged  
10 whose right to adequate food has been violated or needs protection;

11 (e) Establish a continuing program of research, education  
12 and information to enhance respect for the primacy of the right  
13 to adequate food;

14 (f) Recommend to Congress effective measures to promote  
15 the right to adequate food, to harmonize existing laws affecting  
16 the right to adequate food, to ensure their complementation,  
17 and the availability of remedies for violations and compensation  
18 to victims of violations of the right to adequate food;

19 (g) Monitor the government's compliance with its obligations  
20 in regard to the right to adequate food;

21 (h) Request the assistance of any department, bureau,  
22 office or agency in the performance of its functions;

23 (i) Appoint officers and employees in accordance with  
24 law; and

25 (j) Perform such other duties and functions as may be  
26 provided by law.



1           The Commission shall be composed of a Chairperson and  
2 two (2) members who must be natural-born citizens of the  
3 Philippines and, at the time of their appointment, at least  
4 thirty-five (35) years of age, and must not have been candidates  
5 for any elective position in the elections immediately preceding  
6 their appointment. At least one of them must be a member  
7 of the Philippine Bar.

8           The Chairperson and the Members of the Commission  
9 shall not, during their tenure, hold any other office or  
10 employment. Neither shall they engage in the practice of any  
11 profession, or in the active management or control of any  
12 business which, in any way, may be affected by the functions  
13 of their office, nor shall they be financially interested, directly  
14 or indirectly, in any contract with, or in any franchise or  
15 privilege granted by the government, any of its subdivisions,  
16 agencies, or instrumentalities, including government-owned or  
17 -controlled corporations or their subsidiaries.

18           The Chairperson and the Members of the Commission  
19 shall be appointed by the President and shall not be reappointed  
20 to another term. From among the Members, one shall serve  
21 as the Chairperson and shall hold office for ten (10) years,  
22 another Member shall be appointed as Commissioner for seven  
23 (7) years, and another shall be appointed Commissioner and  
24 shall serve for five (5) years, without reappointment. A Member  
25 who shall be appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve only the  
26 unexpired portion of the term of the predecessor. In no case

1 will any Member be appointed or designated in a temporary or  
2 acting capacity.

3 The Chairperson and the Members of the Commission  
4 shall receive the same salary, benefits, privileges and emoluments  
5 of a Cabinet Secretary and Undersecretary, respectively.

6 SEC. 13. *Standards on the Amount of Food.* - The DSWD,  
7 in coordination with the local government units (LGUs)  
8 concerned, shall ensure regular, reliable and timely delivery  
9 of a minimum amount of food to any person who is suffering  
10 or is at risk from hunger or undernutrition. In consultations  
11 with the DSWD, DILG, NNC and the DOH, the Commission shall  
12 specify the scope of the minimum amount of food entitlement for  
13 each individual, determine the exact quantity of calories, proteins  
14 and micronutrients to which the minimum amount of food will  
15 correspond according to the age, sex, health status and occupation  
16 of a person. In addition, the Commission shall formulate a  
17 simple and accessible application or certification procedure for  
18 the minimum amount of food entitlement and transparent, fair  
19 and nondiscriminatory eligibility or certification criteria.

20 There shall likewise be established fair, independent and  
21 accessible recourse procedures to the Commission for complaints  
22 and appropriate remedies in case of a determined violation  
23 of the right to adequate food. For its part, the DSWD shall  
24 establish an appropriate monitoring and evaluation mechanism  
25 and report to the Commission on the right to food on a regular  
26 basis. The annual national appropriations law shall include a

1 specific item allocating resources necessary for the implementation  
2 of the right to adequate food.

3 Specific support measures, particularly needed by:  
4 (a) physiologically vulnerable persons, such as persons suffering  
5 from HIV/AIDS and their families, children, pregnant women and  
6 lactating mothers, disabled persons, persons suffering from  
7 sickness or elderly; (b) geographically disadvantaged persons,  
8 such as persons living in remote and isolated, very poor or  
9 underdeveloped areas; and (c) economically vulnerable persons,  
10 such as landless people, street children, urban poor or unemployed  
11 persons, and indigenous peoples who are also identified as  
12 vulnerable groups, will be designed and adopted to prevent or  
13 compensate for disadvantages that they suffer from, in regard  
14 to the enjoyment of their right to adequate food. The Commission  
15 shall review such proposed specific support measures and,  
16 where necessary, give further guidance to ensure that all  
17 identified vulnerable groups are covered appropriately. The  
18 Commission shall adopt and develop specific support measures  
19 that are in accordance with right to food standards and human  
20 rights principles.

21 SEC. 14. *Emergencies.* - The Commission, in coordination  
22 with the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management  
23 Council (NDRRMC), will have the duty to ensure that:

24 (a) Food emergency responses sufficiently cover both early  
25 warning responses and disaster preparedness in case of a crisis;  
26 and food responses are organized and managed efficiently and

1 effectively, and are compliant with the right to adequate food  
2 and relevant international standards;

3 (b) Food supply responses are compatible with the right  
4 to adequate food and international standards regulating  
5 emergencies; and

6 (c) Requests for international assistance are initiated in  
7 case of necessity and distribution of food to intended recipients  
8 is properly supervised and coordinated.

9 SEC. 15. *Information Dissemination.* - All government  
10 agencies, under the direction of the Commission, in coordination  
11 with the Philippine News Agency (PNA) and Philippine Information  
12 Agency (PIA), are mandated to:

13 (a) Inform the population about the rights established in  
14 this Act and the implementing rules and regulations adopted  
15 upon its entry into force, as well as about any other measure  
16 taken for the purpose of facilitating and promoting the realization  
17 of the right to adequate food; and

18 (b) Use the most appropriate ways and methods of  
19 disseminating information by providing information through all  
20 media forms, and in local languages, notably in the most  
21 marginalized areas and among populations with a high rate of  
22 illiteracy.

23 SEC. 16. *Education and Awareness Program.* - The  
24 Commission, in coordination with the DepED, the Commission  
25 on Higher Education (CHED) and the TESDA, shall ensure that:

1           (a) The school curriculum includes material related to  
2 food and nutrition education, the right to adequate food and  
3 human rights principles; and

4           (b) Relevant adult education and training programs shall  
5 include materials related to food and nutrition, the right to  
6 adequate food and human rights principles.

7           SEC. 17. *International Cooperation.* – The Commission, in  
8 coordination with the CHR and the Department of Foreign  
9 Affairs (DFA), shall:

10           (a) Ensure that activities undertaken in other countries,  
11 including those by private actors, do not infringe on the enjoyment  
12 of the right to adequate food by people in the concerned countries,  
13 in coordination with the DA, DTI, DOH and NEDA and other  
14 relevant agencies;

15           (b) Promote international cooperation and provide assistance  
16 to ensure the realization of the right to adequate food in other  
17 countries, if in a position to do so; and

18           (c) Ensure that international and other agreements which  
19 the Philippine Government enters into, take into account the  
20 guarantee on the right to food.

21           SEC. 18. *Monitoring and Evaluation System.* – There shall  
22 be an integrated monitoring system that shall ensure that all  
23 government agencies at all levels, under the supervision of the  
24 Commission, shall:

25           (a) Collect data related to food and nutrition security, using  
26 monitoring methodologies and processes consistent with human  
27 rights principles as established by this Act;

1           (b) Disaggregate collected data by age, sex, income bracket,  
2 civil status and ethnicity;

3           (c) Monitor progress achieved in the realization of the right  
4 to adequate food; and

5           (d) Establish or identify an early warning mechanism for  
6 food supply shortages and emergencies.

7           SEC. 19. *Representation and Participation of People's*  
8 *Organizations and Civil Society.* - To guarantee public  
9 participation, the Commission shall ensure that:

10           (a) All persons can freely and meaningfully participate  
11 in all forms of public discourse, as well as access information  
12 and exercise freedom of association, in relation to the formulation  
13 and implementation of policies pertaining to the right to adequate  
14 food;

15           (b) Civil society and other stakeholders actively participate  
16 in the institutions that oversee the realization of the right  
17 to adequate food, as well as in formulating capacity building  
18 mechanisms and special measures for disadvantaged groups; and

19           (c) National public hearings are conducted every two (2)  
20 years, at which the government is required to report on the  
21 progress made with the implementation of this Act, and the  
22 progressive realization of the right to adequate food in  
23 the country.

24           SEC. 20. *Penal Provisions.* - The penalty of *prision*  
25 *correccional* shall be imposed on any public or private actor  
26 who causes the starvation or denial of the access to food of

1 any particular individual or group, as through the commission of  
2 any of the following acts:

3 (a) Blockade;

4 (b) Refusal to implement a food-related program;

5 (c) Discrimination in implementing a food-related program;

6 (d) Negligence in implementing food-related programs,  
7 resulting in death;

8 (e) Obstructing access to food in time of calamity or war;

9 (f) Theft, corruption or black marketeering of food being  
10 given as humanitarian aid, in times of calamity or war;

11 (g) Distribution of expired, or unsafe food at a school feeding  
12 program or other feeding program, in times of calamity or war;

13 (h) Contamination of food or water sources, through mining  
14 activities, aerial spraying of plantations, or any other similar  
15 means; and

16 (i) Other analogous acts.

17 *Provided*, That, the penalty is imposable without prejudice  
18 to any other criminal, civil or administrative liability under  
19 Philippine law: *Provided, further*, That if the act committed is  
20 food blockade during armed conflict, the penalty imposable shall  
21 be without prejudice to the application of Republic Act No. 9851, or  
22 the "Philippine Act on Crimes Against International Humanitarian  
23 Law, Genocide, and Other Crimes Against Humanity", and other  
24 relevant laws.

25 SEC. 21. *Civil and Administrative Liabilities.* - Any public  
26 officer or employee who directly or indirectly obstructs, defeats,  
27 violates or in any manner impedes or impairs any of a person's

1 rights guaranteed under this Act, will be liable for damages.  
2 Any violation of a provision of this Act, whether committed by  
3 public or private actors, will similarly give rise to liability for  
4 damages.

5 It is hereby declared a ministerial duty on the part of the  
6 government to ensure the enjoyment of the rights guaranteed  
7 in this Act and to perform the duties provided for in this Act.  
8 Appropriate cases may be filed before the courts to compel  
9 compliance with the provisions of this Act. These cases shall  
10 be without prejudice to liability for damages, as well as  
11 administrative liability that may be incurred.

12 SEC. 22. *Appropriations.* - There will be an allocation  
13 in the annual budget specifically for the purposes of the  
14 implementation of the right to adequate food, in accordance  
15 with priorities set by the Commission. The allocation will be aimed  
16 at the progressive realization of the right to adequate food over  
17 the long term.

18 SEC. 23. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The  
19 Commission shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to  
20 implement the provisions of this Act within sixty (60) days from  
21 its effectivity. In the formulation of these rules and regulations,  
22 the Commission shall take the lead and shall coordinate with  
23 the CHR, DA, DAR, DSWD, DOH, DTI, DPWH, NEDA, NNC  
24 and NAPC, and with the active participation of people's  
25 organizations and human rights nongovernmental organizations.

26 SEC. 24. *Rationalization of Policies.* - All existing policies,  
27 laws, decrees, executive orders, memorandum orders, memorandum



1 circulars, administrative orders, and ordinances shall be  
2 rationalized and interpreted in a way that will guarantee the  
3 realization of the right to adequate food as provided for by  
4 this Act.

5 Concerned Cabinet secretaries and other executive  
6 authorities will report on a regular basis to the Commission on  
7 legislative and regulatory measures that have been formulated and  
8 adopted, and the time frames within which they are envisaged to  
9 achieve their objectives in order to achieve zero hunger.

10 SEC. 25. *Separability Clause.* – If any part or provision of  
11 this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this  
12 Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain in full  
13 force and effect.

14 SEC. 26. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive  
15 orders, memorandum orders, memorandum circulars,  
16 administrative orders, ordinances, or parts thereof, which are  
17 inconsistent with the right to adequate food and the  
18 provisions of this Act, are hereby deemed repealed or modified  
19 accordingly.

20 SEC. 27. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)  
21 days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper  
22 of general circulation.

Approved,