

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )**  
**OF THE PHILIPPINES )**  
*First Regular Session )*



23 FEB -6 P 6 :43

**SENATE**  
**S.B. No. 1843**

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

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Introduced by: **Senator Raffy T. Tulfo**

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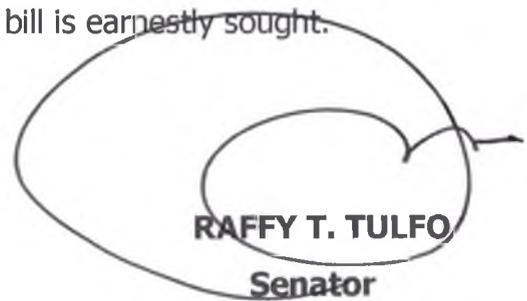
**AN ACT EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF FREE SCHOOL MEALS PROGRAM  
AND MANDATING THE PROCUREMENT FROM SMALL SCALE FARMERS IN  
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL FEEDING PROGRAM  
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT 11037 OTHERWISE  
KNOWN AS THE "MASUSTANSYANG PAGKAIN PARA SA BATANG PILIPINO  
ACT"**

Explanatory Note

Republic Act 11037, also known as the Masustansyang Pagkain para sa Batang Pilipino Act, was signed into law for the purpose of establishing a National Feeding Program for Undernourished Children in Public Day Care, Kindergarten and Elementary Schools to Combat Hunger and Undernutrition in our country. However, Reports indicate that the majority of Filipino children still go to school on an empty stomach. It is the policy of the state to promote children's rights to survival and development. It is imperative that we recognize the link between a healthy diet and the growth of the body and mind. The State shall encourage school children from Kindergarten to Grade 12, particularly those from low-income families, to have access to affordable and wholesome food. Improving the health condition of the children will not only improve their learning capacity but also improve their academic performance.

The purpose of this bill is to implement affordable health and nutrition programs by ensuring that proper, age-appropriate, and affordable health and nutrition programs are accessible to school children throughout their childhood years. This bill also seeks to help our agricultural industry by mandating that 30% or more of the supplies needed to implement the national feeding program shall be procured from small-scale farmers.

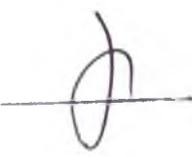
In view of the foregoing, the early passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A large, handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "RAFFY T. TULFO". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed within a large, hand-drawn oval. A small arrow points to the right from the end of the signature.

**RAFFY T. TULFO**  
**Senator**

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)**  
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**AN ACT EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF THE FREE SCHOOL MEALS PROGRAM AND MANDATING THE PROCUREMENT FROM SMALL SCALE FARMERS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL FEEDING PROGRAM AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT 11037 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "MASUSTANSYANG PAGKAIN PARA SA BATANG PILIPINO ACT"**

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Definition of Small-scale farmers –

2 Small-scale farmers in the Philippines shall refer to individual or collective farm  
3 operators who engage in agricultural and fishery activities, with total land and/or water  
4 area of operation, including leased areas, not exceeding five (5) hectares.

5

6 **Sec.2.** - Republic Act No. 11037, otherwise known as the Masustansyang Pagkain  
7 Para sa Batang Pilipino Act is hereby amended by inserting the following provisions  
8 after Section 7 of the said Act:

9

**SECTION 8. PROCUREMENT OF PRODUCE FROM SMALL SCALE PRODUCERS -**  
10 **THE GOVERNMENT IS, HEREBY, MANDATED TO ENSURE THAT 30% OR**

1 MORE OF THE SUPPLIES NEEDED TO IMPLEMENT THE NATIONAL FEEDING  
2 PROGRAM ARE PROCURED FROM SMALL-SCALE PRODUCERS.

3  
4 SECTION 9. REGISTRY OF SMALL-SCALE PRODUCERS - THE DA SHALL KEEP  
5 AND REGULARLY UPDATE A LIST OF SMALL-SCALE PRODUCERS. IT SHALL  
6 USE THE REGISTRY FOR BASIC SECTORS IN AGRICULTURE (RSBSA), THE  
7 REGIONAL FIELD OFFICE (RFO) LIST OF BENEFICIARIES. THE BUREAU OF  
8 FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES'S NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR  
9 MUNICIPAL FISHERFOLK REGISTRATION (BFAR FISH R) FOR FISHERFOLK,  
10 AND ANY OTHER LIST IT MAY DEEM NECESSARY TO KEEP THE REGISTRY UP  
11 TO DATE.

12  
13 FURTHERMORE, THE DA IS REQUIRED TO COORDINATE WITH THE DSWD TO  
14 CROSS-MATCH AND COMPARE THE REGISTRY.WITH THE DSWD'S NATIONAL  
15 HOUSEHOLD TARGETING SYSTEM FOR POVERTY REDUCTION (NHTS-PR) TO  
16 AVOID DUPLICATION AND REDUNDANCY.

17  
18 SECTION 10. SUPPORT SERVICES FOR AGRARIAN REFORM BENEFICIARIES  
19 WHO ARE SMALL-SCALE PRODUCERS - THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN  
20 REFORM (DAR) SHALL INSTITUTE THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS FOR AGRARIAN  
21 REFORM BENEFICIARIES WHO ARE SMALL-SCALE PRODUCERS AS  
22 CONTAINED IN THEIR LIST OF BENEFICIARIES:

- 23  
24 A. TRAINING ON PRODUCTION, HARVESTING, PROCUREMENT PROCESS OF  
25 THIS ACT, AND ANY OTHER TOPIC THE DAR SEES FIT;  
26 B. SUBSIDIZED FARM EQUIPMENT;  
27 C. FACILITIES FOR STORAGE AND HARVESTING;  
28 D. CAPACITY BUILDING FOR SMALL-SCALE FARMER;  
29 E. ACCESS TO CROP INSURANCE;  
30 F. ACCESS TO CREDIT/LOW INTEREST RATES

31 **SEC. 3.** Expanding the coverage of the National Feeding Program to Grade 12.

32 Section 4 of the same act shall be read as follows:

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SEC. 4. National Feeding Program. - The National Feeding Program, hereinafter referred to as the Program, is hereby established to address undernutrition among Filipino children. The Program shall have the following components and coverage:

(a) xxx;

(b) School-Based Feeding Program. - The DepEd shall implement a school-based feeding program for undernourished public school children from kindergarten to ~~(grade six (6))~~ **GRADE TWELVE (12)** ; :

( c) xxx;

**SEC. 4.** Section 8 of RA 11037 is hereby amended as Section 11, and all succeeding sections of the same act are hereby renumbered accordingly.

**SEC.5.** Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act, the Secretary of Education, in consultation with the DA, DAR, DSWD , the National Nutrition Council (NNC), the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI), the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and such other relevant government agencies, nongovernment organizations, and development partners, shall promulgate their respective rules and regulations for the efficient and effective of this act. The implementing rules and regulations issued pursuant to this section shall take effect thirty (30) days after publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

**SEC.6.** Separability Clause.- If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not so declared shall remain in force and effect.

**SEC. 7.**Repealing Clause.

1 All laws, decrees, orders and rules, and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with  
2 the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

3 **SEC.8.** Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication  
4 in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

**Approved,**