



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. **6130**

Introduced by Representative Victor A. Yap

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines faced a "serious" level of hunger in 2019 as shown by its 20.1 score in the latest Global Hunger Index (GHI) of the International Food Policy Research Institute (FPRI), falling below the bottom half or ranking 70th out of 117 qualifying countries.¹ The GHI indicates the level of undernourishment, child wasting, child stunting and child mortality of a nation. While the Philippines' GHI has improved from the score of 24.5 in the year 2010, the country must exert utmost effort to further reduce hunger for all Filipinos due to the fact that constant hunger leads to malnutrition which hampers the physical growth of a child, affects one's mental health, productivity and prospects for employment.

According to UNICEF, one in three Filipino children under five years old are stunted, which means they are too short for their age, while roughly seven per cent of children are too thin for their height. This scenario inevitably leads to the increased vulnerability to disease due to poor health-seeking behavior, incomplete immunization, poor hygiene and care practices, and especially inadequate diet.² Furthermore, results from the National Nutrition Survey spanning two decades show no significant change in the incidence of stunting in the country – from 1993's 39 per cent to 2013's 30 per cent.

The problem of malnutrition, therefore, calls for a more lasting solution. It requires a comprehensive strategy that complements traditional nutrition intervention. The Barangay Integrated Development Approach for Nutrition Improvement or BIDANI is one such approach to address the recurring problem of hunger, especially malnutrition.

BIDANI will be an active research program to be spearheaded by participating state colleges and universities as a regular program addressing the nutritional and general well-being of the poor. It will encourage every family and community to maintain children's normal growth, through proper diet and regular growth monitoring.

This bill seeks to establish the BIDANI network program that will place nutrition at the forefront of learning and integrate modern principles of medicine in national nutrition. BIDANI shall serve as a government partner in providing proper nutrition to the people, particularly the poor. Likewise, it shall ensure the promotion of a healthy and productive citizenry.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "V. A. Yap", written over a stylized star-like graphic.

VICTOR A. YAP

Representative, 2nd District of Tarlac

¹ Data retrieved from <https://www.globalhungerindex.org/pdf/en/2019/Philippines.pdf>, accessed on Jan. 28, 2020.

² Data retrieved from <https://www.unicef.org/philippines/press-releases/unicef-many-children-and-adolescents-philippines-are-not-growing-healthily> accessed on Jan. 29, 2020

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Introduced by Representative Victor A. Yap

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

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 "*Barangay Integrated*
2 *Development Approach for Nutrition Improvement (BIDANI) Act*".

3
4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to recognize
5 nutrition as a basic human right. Towards this end, the State shall promote vigorously the importance of
6 nutrition as a public good and a public concern that can be achieved satisfactorily through a multi-
7 sectoral support. It shall work towards the provision of the nutritional needs of the poor sector of the
8 Filipino society who are deprived of said right. Further, the State shall give utmost support to programs
9 and projects that are responsive to the nutritional needs of the people.

10
11 **SEC. 3. Objectives.** - This Act shall have the following objectives:

12 (a) To encourage the cooperation and participation of academic institutions and local
13 government units (LGUs) in promoting the nutritional well-being of the country;

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

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

19
20 **SEC. 4. Establishment of the Barangay Integrated Development Approach for Nutrition**
21 **Improvement Program.** - The BIDANI Program is hereby established as a nutrition-in-development
22 research program involving SUCs which aims to assist the national government in improving the
23 nutrition and general well-being of the poor.

1 It is a comprehensive model for countryside development programs which makes nutrition as
2 an entry point, ultimate goal and objective, indicator and measure of development. It attempts to attack
3 malnutrition at its root cause, which is linked to poverty, insufficiency of food, social deprivation and
4 underdevelopment.

5 It is one of the enabling mechanisms in the implementation of the Philippine Plan of Action for
6 Nutrition (PPAN) and an indispensable growth strategy of the National Nutrition Council (NNC).¹
7

8 **SEC. 5. BIDANI Goals.** - The BIDANI Program shall promote nutrition in development
9 through community and other stakeholders participation in an integrated management system facilitated
10 by SUCs. The program aims to:

11 (a) Develop competent SUCs which shall assist in achieving the nutrition-in-development
12 objectives of the NNC. These SUCs shall capacitate its core team members to ensure that in-planning
13 nutrition shall be integrated in all areas/sectors of local governance. To realize this goal, continuous
14 training of trainers on the BIDANI strategy and on the different BIDANI innovative strategies for all
15 BIDANI stakeholders at different levels shall be conducted by the NNC; and

16 (b) Ensure the inclusion of best nutrition practices of successful LGUs through the
17 participation of local nutrition management teams. Partner SUCs, through the BIDANI, shall build the
18 capabilities of the Citizenry for self-help and self reliance, catalyze action through the involvement of
19 various stakeholders, complement with the efforts of government organizations (GOs),
20 nongovernment organizations (NGOs), private organizations (POs) and private sectors, and link the
21 community with existing resources.
22

23 **SEC. 6. BIDANI Structural/Organizational Linkages.** - The BIDANI partners and
24 stakeholders shall work at different levels, as follows:

25 (a) State Universities and Colleges (SUCs). - Partnership with SUCs shall be formalized and
26 operationatized through an execution of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the University
27 of the Philippines - Los Banos represented by its Chancellor, and the President of the concerned
28 SUCs. Upon approval of the MOA, the BIDANI Program shall be operationalized under the Office of
29 the Vice President for Research and Extension (OVPRE) of the partner SUC. A BIDANI SUC will
30 then choose their partner LGUs.

31 (b) City/Municipal Local Government Units. - The implementation of the BIDANI as a
32 development strategy in the LGUs will commence upon the approval by the city or municipality of the
33 nutrition plans formulated by the SUC concerned through a MOA or city/municipal resolutions. A
34 city/municipal organizational machinery called the City/Municipal Technical Action Committee
35 (CIMfAC), composed of the heads and representatives of different city/municipal line agencies who
36 shall be responsible for the implementation, monitoring, evaluation and replication of the BIDANI
37 strategy in the locality shall be created.

38 (c) Barangay Units. - The realization of the BIDANI as a development strategy shall be
39 accomplished at the barangay level. The Barangay Development Council (BDC) shall be enhanced
40 through an expanded BDC membership called Program Planning and Implementation Committee

1 which shall include representatives from the sangguniang baraagay, BDC, purok and other community
2 leaders who shall be trained on the BIDANI strategy to ensure that the processes for planning and
3 management of development programs, projects and activities will be participative and responsive to the
4 needs of the members of the barangay.

5 (d) Other Stakeholders. - The participation and inputs of NGOs, other government agencies
6 and offices, and POs shall be sought to contribute to the realization of the plans formulated and agreed
7 upon by the members of the barangay.

8
9 **SEC. 7. BIDANI Innovative Strategies.** - To facilitate the local implementation of the
10 BIDANI, the program shall work on the following innovative strategies:

11 (a) Barangay Integrated Development Plan (BIDP). - Upon approval of this Act the BIDP shall
12 include the barangays' plans and programs relative to nutrition, which plans shall be integrated into the
13 municipal development plan;

14 (b) Barangay Management Information System (BMIS). - In the conduct of its research activities,
15 the concerned SUC shall develop a people-based information system which focuses on the identification
16 of the needs of the barangay through an efficient and effective data collection needed for program
17 planning, management and implementation of various projects and activities at the barangays; and

18 (c) Participative Nutrition Enhancement Approach (PNEA). - The NNC and participating SUCs
19 shall utilize the life cycle approach in the formulation of food production policies and programs and
20 promote market-driven livelihood activities among households in order to prevent malnutrition among
21 pre-school children and nutritionally-at-risk families.

22
23 **SEC. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - Within the period of sixty (60) days, the
24 NNC, in coordination with the participating SUCs, shall prepare and issue the necessary rules and
25 regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

26 **SEC. 9. Funding.** - The amount necessary for the implementation of the BIDANI network
27 program shall be included in the budget of participating SUCs in the annual General Appropriations
28 Act. Participating SUCs may also get funds, donations and other forms of financial support from
29 foreign and local persons, institutions and governments for the implementation of the BIDANI
30 network program.

31
32 **SEC. 10. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, and
33 other issuances, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or
34 modified accordingly.

35
36 **SEC. II. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
37 Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

38
39 Approved.