

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City



**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
**First Regular Session**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 5907**

---

Introduced by **HONORABLE STELLA LUZ A. QUIMBO**

---

**AN ACT EXTENDING THE NATIONAL FEEDING PROGRAM TO  
UNDERNOURISHED CHILDREN IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS THEREBY  
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT 11037, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "ACT  
INSTITUTIONALIZING A NATIONAL FEEDING PROGRAM FOR  
UNDERNOURISHED CHILDREN IN PUBLIC DAY CARE, KINDERGARTEN  
AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS TO COMBAT HUNGER AND  
UNDERNUTRITION AMONG FILIPINO CHILDREN AND APPROPRIATING  
FUNDS THEREFOR"**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

In 2018, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte signed Republic Act No. 11037, more popularly known as the "*Masustansyang Pagkain para sa Batang Pilipino Act*." The Act institutionalized, among others, the supplementary feeding program in the Philippines which has always aimed to develop the Filipino's human capital. The potential for learning is diminished if children suffer from hunger and extreme poverty.<sup>1</sup> In the Philippines, students cease from attending school because they lack adequate food supply to sustain their energy needed to learn. The Department of Science and Technology has also been conducting supplementary feeding programs in the country to improve the nutritional status of undernourished individuals by increasing their consumptions of micronutrients.<sup>2</sup>

In June 2019, the school principal of Victorino Mapa High School, one of the oldest high schools in the nation's capital, noted that among the persistent problems that schools face is children's hunger.<sup>3</sup> It is almost

---

<sup>1</sup> Del Rosso, Joy Miller. *School feeding programs: Improving effectiveness and increasing the benefit of education*. University of Oxford, 1999.

<sup>2</sup> "Supplementary Feeding with Education: Effective Against Malnutrition." *Department of Science and Technology – CALABARZON Region*, 04 February 2019. (Previously accessed at: <http://region4a.dost.gov.ph/12-updates/702-supplementary-feeding-with-education-effective-against-malnutrition>)

<sup>3</sup> Hernando-Malipot, Merlina. "Same old problems' to welcome 27.2 million learners to school this year." *Manila Bulletin*, 02 June 2019 (Previously accessed at: <https://news.mb.com.ph/2019/06/02/same-old-problems-to-welcome-27-2-million-learners-to-school-this-year/>)

absurd to expect students to focus on their studies when their stomachs are grumbling.


Worse, in some cases, Filipino adolescents engage in child labor just so they may have something to eat while in school. For instance, Jojo, an eighth grade student in Taguig City, works as a garbage collector and his earnings from which become his pocket money for school.<sup>4</sup>

The passage of Republic Act No. 11037 is laudable and this proposed legislation wishes to improve the measure further. The Act covers day care to public elementary students because 24.5% of school children (ages 6 to 10) are stunted while 7.6% of them are wasted. However, in the case of adolescent children, 26.3% of them are stunted while 11.3% are wasted.<sup>5</sup> The nutritional status of high school students is every bit as alarming as that of elementary school children. Thus, they should likewise be considered as beneficiaries of the supplementary feeding program.

Further, Republic Act No. 11037 must also be amended to include even younger children than those attending grade school, since nutrition needs at the formative years are crucial to ensuring avoiding incidences of stunted or wasted growth.

As such, there is a pressing and immediate need to broaden the coverage of Republic Act No. 11037 to include high school students, as well as kindergarten students. Our children and all future generations will reap a prosperous, stable, and peaceful society if we invest on their health and education today. We must institutionalize prioritizing their access to quality schooling and nutrition.

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

  
**STELLA LUZ A. QUIMBO**  
Representative

Second District, Marikina City

---

<sup>4</sup> Badilla, Nelson. "Child labor: a problem ignored." *The Manila Times*, 03 October 2015 (Previously accessed at: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2015/10/03/news/top-stories/child-labor-a-problemignored/221982/>)

<sup>5</sup> 2018 Expanded National Nutritional Survey. *Department of Science and Technology*, 28 August 2019 (Previously accessed at: <http://endo-society.org.ph/2018-enns-survey-results/>)



Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
**First Regular Session**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 5907**

---

Introduced by **HONORABLE STELLA LUZ A. QUIMBO**

---

**AN ACT EXTENDING THE NATIONAL FEEDING PROGRAM TO  
UNDERNOURISHED CHILDREN IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS THEREBY  
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT 11037, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "ACT  
INSTITUTIONALIZING A NATIONAL FEEDING PROGRAM FOR  
UNDERNOURISHED CHILDREN IN PUBLIC DAY CARE, KINDERGARTEN  
AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS TO COMBAT HUNGER AND  
UNDERNUTRITION AMONG FILIPINO CHILDREN AND APPROPRIATING  
FUNDS THEREFOR"**

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

**SECTION 1.** Section 4 (b) of Republic Act 11307 otherwise known as the  
"ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING A NATIONAL FEEDING PROGRAM FOR  
UNDERNOURISHED CHILDREN IN PUBLIC DAY CARE, KINDERGARTEN  
AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS TO COMBAT HUNGER AND  
UNDERNUTRITION AMONG FILIPINO CHILDREN AND APPROPRIATING  
FUNDS THEREFOR" is hereby amended to read as follows:

SECTION. 4 (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)}~~ **TWELVE (12)**:  
*Provided, That the Program shall include the provision of at least one*

(1) fortified meal to all undernourished public **KINDERGARTEN**, elementary, **AND SECONDARY** school children for a period of not less than one hundred twenty (120) days in a year;

**SECTION 2.** *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Education, in consultation with the National Nutrition Council, the Food and Nutrition Research Institute, the Department of Health, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Interior and Local Government, and concerned LGUs, and such other relevant government agencies, nongovernment organizations, and development partners shall promulgate their respective rules and regulations for the efficient and effective implementation of this Act.

**SECTION 3.** *Separability Clause.* – Should any provision of this Act or any part hereof be declared unconstitutional, the other provisions or parts not affected thereby shall remain valid and effective.

**SECTION 4.** *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, resolutions, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 5.** *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,