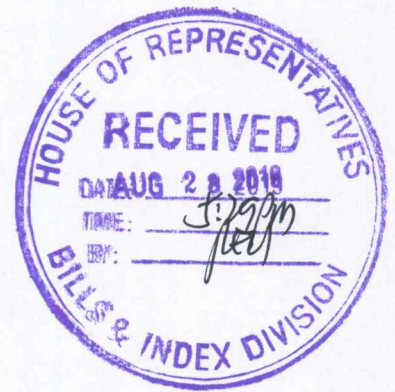


Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
1st Regular Session

**House Bill No. 4243**



---

**Introduced by Hon. Francis Gerald Aguinaldo Abaya**

---

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

At present, food insecurity is undeniably one of the major issues faced by our government and countrymen. It is unfortunate that a country rich in natural resources cannot provide for the basic needs of its inhabitants. In 2018, the Philippines' Global Hunger Index (GHI) is 20.2, ranking the country 69 out of 119 and placing it under the "Serious" category in the GHI. The data for GHI scores also shows that hunger poses dangerous health consequences for the country, with 20.6% of people being underweight and 32.2% being stunted. Having low weight and being stunted can hinder an individual from developing fully which can greatly affect his livelihood and overall performance of daily activities. These are very alarming numbers that speaks about the situation of our fellow Filipinos. If we are to truly achieve economic development, we should prioritize this issue on hunger.

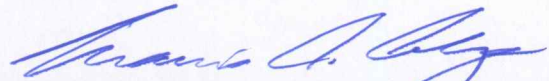
Moreover, the Philippines is a signatory and one of the first nations to ratify the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is notable that Article 25, Section 1 of the said declaration states that "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food." Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution also provides that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. Consequently, the State needs to commit to provide every Filipino access to adequate food and nutrition and to ensure that every family has a way to raise their income above the poverty threshold.

This proposed measure creates a system for the State to combat hunger and poverty through the institutionalization of a National Feeding Program. At the core of this program is the a targeting system which establishes a nationwide database that identifies individuals that have the least access to proper nutrition. Coupled by the streamlining of the food distribution system is an effective food procurement system wherein the supplies needed by the National Feeding Program will come from small-scale producers. This would provide a steady market for the small-scale producers who are incapable of

competing with large industry producers. Through this, we are also creating jobs for our citizens and boosting the agricultural sector of the country.

Our country's most important resource is its citizens and therefore, we should strive to end hunger.

For the foregoing reasons, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



**FRANCIS GERALD AGUINALDO ABAYA**

Representative, First District Cavite



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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4243

---

Introduced by Hon. Francis Gerald Aguinaldo Abaya

---

**AN ACT CREATING A SYSTEM OF FOOD DISTRIBUTION FOR ADDRESSING  
THE NUTRITIONAL NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE PROVIDING FOR ITS  
PROCUREMENT PROCESS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND  
FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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 "National Food Security Act  
2 of 2019".

3 **SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy*** - It is, hereby, declared a policy of the State to  
4 develop, create, and implement a nationwide feeding program to alleviate poverty and  
5 hunger in the country. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, ratified by the  
6 Philippines, states everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health  
7 and well-being of himself and of his family, including food. Furthermore, the  
8 Constitution states "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the  
9 people and instill health consciousness among them."  
10

11 **Chapter I**

12 **National Feeding Program**

13  
14 **SECTION 3. *National Feeding program*** - There is, hereby, established a National  
15 Feeding Program which shall aim to alleviate hunger and malnutrition for children ages  
16 0 - 13 years old.

17 **SECTION 4. *Creation of a National Hunger Targeting System*** - The Philippine  
18 Statistics Authority (PSA) in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and  
19 Development (DSWD) and Department of Health (DOH) shall establish a nationwide

1 database that identifies groups and/or individuals that have the least access to proper  
2 nutrition. The database shall identify the most vulnerable groups and/or individuals to  
3 be listed as beneficiaries.

4 **SECTION 5. *Infant feeding program*** - The DOH, in consultation with DSWD, shall  
5 create a system of distribution through the Barangay Health Workers of food packets  
6 for those targeted by the system created in this Act. The said food packets shall  
7 supplement the nutritional and dietary needs of children ages 0 - 1 year olds.

8 **SECTION 6. *Supplementary Feeding Program*** - The DSWD shall ensure that  
9 children ages 2 - 5 receive the proper nutrients and diet while under their care.  
10 Beneficiaries shall be given meals that will meet their nutritional needs. The DSWD  
11 may consult with the National Nutrition Council (NNC) to meet the proper nutritional  
12 and dietary needs of the children. The following shall be the beneficiaries:

- 13 a) Children 2 - 4 years old in the Supervised Neighborhood Play (SNP) Area;
- 14 b) Children 3 - 4 years old enrolled in Day Care Centers (DDC); and
- 15 c) Children 5 years old not enrolled in the Department of Education (DepEd)  
16 preschool system but enrolled in DDCs.

17 **SECTION 7. *Elementary Feeding School Program*** - The Department of Education  
18 (DepEd) shall ensure that students from Kindergarten to Grade 4 are given the proper  
19 meals during school hours. Such meals should contain the proper nutritional and  
20 dietary needs of students. The DepEd shall consult the NNC nutritional and dietary  
21 specifics.

## 22 23 **Chapter II** 24 **Procurement** 25

26 **SECTION 8. *Procurement of Produce*** - The Government is, hereby, mandated to  
27 ensure that 30% or more of the supplies needed to implement the National Feeding  
28 Program are procured from Small-Scale Producers.

29 **SECTION 9. *Registry of Small-Scale Producers*** - The Department of Agriculture  
30 (DA) shall keep and regularly update a list of Small-Scale Producers. It shall use  
31 Registry for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA), Regional Field Office (RFO) list of  
32 beneficiaries, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources' National Program for  
33 Municipal Fisher folk Registration (BFAR FishR) for fisherfolk, and any other list it may  
34 deem necessary to keep the registry up to date. *Furthermore*, the DA is required to



1 coordinate with the DSWD to cross-match and compare the registry with the DSWD's  
2 National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR) to avoid  
3 duplication and redundancy.

4 **SECTION 10. *Procurement process for Small-Scale Producers*** - For the purposes  
5 of this act, procurement from Small Scale producers shall be exempted from the  
6 procurement process as stated in Republic Act No.9184, otherwise known as the  
7 Procurement Law. Provided, small scale producers shall undergo Negotiated  
8 Procurement Participation under the guidelines of the Government Procurement  
9 Policy Board (GPPB) and specified under this Act.

10 **SECTION 11. *Negotiated Procurement Participation*** - Small Scale Producers shall  
11 enter a Negotiated Procurement with the government under the guidelines of the  
12 GPPB when the following conditions are met:

13 a) DA Validation - certification from the DA and/or any of its tasked agency that  
14 the individual or family is indeed included in the Registry of Small scale farmers.

15 b) Produce/Product Sustainability - when participants have the ability to  
16 continue to meet the demand for their produce or product for prolonged periods  
17 of time, with or without government intervention.

18 c) Community Enrichment - when there is a viable means of improving the well-  
19 being of the community where the small scale farmers are situated. This seeks  
20 to extend the benefits that may arise from the contract between the small scale  
21 farmers and the government. The goal is to achieve positive outcomes such as  
22 like poverty reduction, access to education, equitable distribution and  
23 management of natural resources, climate change adaptation/mitigation,  
24 disaster risk reduction, gender equality, disease reduction, and job generation,  
25 among others.

26 **SECTION 12. *Support Services for Small-Scale Producers under the Department***  
27 ***of Agriculture*** - The DA shall institute the following benefits for Small-Scale Producers  
28 as contained in their registry:

29 a) Training on Production, Harvesting, Procurement Process of this Act, and  
30 any other topic the DA sees fit;

31 b) Subsidized Farm Equipment

32 c) Facilities for storage and harvesting

33 d) Capacity Building for Small-Scale Farmer

34 e) Access to Crop Insurance

1 f) Access to credit/low interest rates

2 **SECTION 13. *Support Services for Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries who are Small-***  
3 ***Scale Producers*** - The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) shall institute the  
4 following benefits for Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries who are Small-Scale Producers  
5 as contained in their list of beneficiaries:

6 a) Training on Production, Harvesting, Procurement Process of this Act, and  
7 any other topic the DAR sees fit;

8 b) Subsidized Farm Equipment;

9 c) Facilities for storage and harvesting;

10 d) Capacity Building for Small-Scale Farmer;

11 e) Access to Crop Insurance;

12 f) Access to credit/low interest rates.

### 14 Chapter III

### 15 Food Council

16  
17 **SECTION 14. *National Food Security Council*** - A National Food Security Council,  
18 hereafter referred to as Council, is hereby created as an attached and independent  
19 agency to the Office of the President.

20 **SECTION 15. *Mandate of the Council*** - The Council is mandated to act as the check  
21 and balance organization for the food security system. It shall oversee the effective  
22 distribution, procurement, and targeting of beneficiaries as mandated in this Act. It  
23 shall also serve as a coordinating body for the different departments involved in the  
24 implementation of this Act.

25 **SECTION 16. *Chairperson of the Council*** - The Chairperson of the Council shall be  
26 appointed to a six year term by the President of the Philippines. No person may be  
27 Chairperson if he has not met the following criteria:

28 a) Ten (10) years of work experience in a CSO involved in Food Security;

29 b) Has no relatives, to the second degree of consanguinity, in the government;

30 c) Has good moral character;

31 d) No pending cases

32 **SECTION 17. *Membership of the Council*** - The Council shall consist of the following  
33 members:

34 a) Representative from the Department of Agriculture;



- b) Representative from the Department of Agrarian Reform
- c) Representative from the Department of Social Welfare and Development
- d) Representative from the Department of Interior and Local Government
- e) Representative from the Department of Education
- f) Representative from the Department of Health
- g) Representative from the National Nutritional Council
- h) Representative from the Department of Science and Technology - Food and Nutrition Research Institute
- i) Four (4) Representatives from Civil Society involved in Food Security or Hunger alleviation
- j) Four (4) Representatives from Small-Scale Producers group

**SECTION 18. *Representatives from Civil Society involved in Food Security or Hunger Alleviation*** - The Representatives for Civil Society shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines upon the recommendation of the National Anti-Poverty Commission. No Representative may be appointed or recommended if he has not met the following criteria:

- a) Five (5) years of service under a Civil Society Organization involved in Food Security or Hunger Alleviation;
- b) Has no position in any government agency or office;
- c) Has no relatives, to the second degree of consanguinity, in the government;
- d) Has good moral character;
- e) No pending cases.

**SECTION 19. *Representatives from Small-Scale Producers group*** - The Representatives for Small-Scale Producers shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines upon the recommendation of the Department of Agriculture. No Representative may be appointed or recommended if he has not met the following criteria:

- a) Five (5) years as a practicing Small-Scale Producer;
- b) Has no position in any government agency or office;
- c) Has no relatives, to the second degree of consanguinity, in the government;
- d) Has good moral character; and
- e) No pending cases

**SECTION 20. *Appropriations*** - The funds needed to implement this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

1 **SECTION 21. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - Within sixty (50) days from  
2 the appointment its members, the Council shall promulgate such rules and regulations  
3 necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

4 **SECTION 22. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision of this Act is subsequently  
5 declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are not affected  
6 thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

7 **SECTION 23. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
8 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

9  
10 Approved.  
11