

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

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

House Bill no. **3419**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
<b>RECEIVED</b>	
31 AUG 2016	
DATE:	
TIME:	5:20 PM
BY:	MEM
REGISTRATION UNIT	
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**Introduced by Representative Jorge "Bolet" Banal**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The late Senator Benigno S. Aquino, Jr. once said "The very first freedom that has to be won is freedom from hunger. When you are always concerned about where the next meal will come from, everything else becomes irrelevant." Before anything else, the primary needs of every person needs to be met. At the base of development, we must first ensure that each and every Filipino will not worry about where to get his next meal. We, as representatives of the people, must ensure that our constituents are taken care of and their needs are met.

Furthermore, the Philippines is a signatory and one of the first nations to ratify the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. 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." Therefore, 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 bill creates a system for the State to combat hunger and poverty, including the institutionalization of a National Feeding Program, the streamlining of food procurement and food distributions systems, and the creation of a structured demand that ensures and raises the income of the marginalized. These marginalized sectors are mostly small-scale food producers incapable of competing with big industry producers.

It is this policy's hope that the produce that will free Filipinos from hunger are the same produce that free our people from poverty.

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

Jorge "Bolet" Banal  
Representative, Third District of Quezon City

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**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:*

**Section 1. Short Title** - This Act shall be known as the "National Food Security Act  
of 2015"

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

**Chapter I**  
**National Feeding Program**

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

**Section 4. Creation of a National Hunger Targeting System** – The Philippine  
Statistics Authority (PSA) in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and  
Development (DSWD) and Department of Health (DOH) shall establish a nationwide  
database that identifies groups and/or individuals that have the least access to  
proper nutrition. The database shall identify the most vulnerable groups and/or  
individuals to be listed as beneficiaries.

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

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

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

**Section 7. Elementary Feeding School Program** – The DepEd shall ensure that students from Kindergarten to Grade 4 are given the proper meals during school hours. Such meals should contain the proper nutritional and dietary needs of students. The DepEd shall consult the NNC nutritional and dietary specifics.

## Chapter II Procurement

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

**Section 9. Registry of Small-Scale Producers** – The DA shall keep and regularly update a list of Small-Scale Producers. It shall use Registry for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA), Regional Field Office (RFO) list of beneficiaries, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources's National Program for Municipal Fisherfolk Registration (BFAR FishR) for fisherfolk, and any other list it may deem necessary to keep the registry up to date. *Furthermore*, the DA is required to coordinate with the DSWD to cross-match and compare the registry with the DSWD's National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR) to avoid duplication and redundancy.

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

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

- a) DA Validation – certification from the DA and/or any of its tasked agency that the individual or family is indeed included in the Registry of Small scale farmers.
- b) Produce/Product Sustainability – when participants have the ability to continue to meet the demand for their produce or product for prolonged periods of time, with or without government intervention.

- 1 c) Community Enrichment – when there is a viable means of improving the well-  
2 being of the community where the small scale farmers are situated. This  
3 seeks to extend the benefits that may arise from the contract between the  
4 small scale farmers and the government. The goal is to achieve positive  
5 outcomes such as like poverty reduction, access to education, equitable  
6 distribution and management of natural resources, climate change  
7 adaptation/mitigation, disaster risk reduction, gender equality, disease  
8 reduction, and job generation, among others.  
9

10 **Section 12. Support Services for Small-Scale Producers under the Department**  
11 **of Agriculture** – The DA shall institute the following benefits for Small-Scale  
12 Producers as contained in their registry:  
13

- 14 a) Training on Production, Harvesting, Procurement Process of this Act, and any  
15 other topic the DA sees fit  
16 b) Subsidized Farm Equipment  
17 c) Facilities for storage and harvesting  
18 d) Capacity Building for Small-Scale Farmer  
19 e) Access to Crop Insurance  
20 f) Access to credit/low interest rates  
21

22 **Section 13. Support Services for Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries who are Small-**  
23 **Scale Producers** - The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) shall institute the  
24 following benefits for Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries who are Small-Scale Producers  
25 as contained in their list of beneficiaries:  
26

- 27 a) Training on Production, Harvesting, Procurement Process of this Act, and any  
28 other topic the DAR sees fit  
29 b) Subsidized Farm Equipment  
30 c) Facilities for storage and harvesting  
31 d) Capacity Building for Small-Scale Farmer  
32 e) Access to Crop Insurance  
33 f) Access to credit/low interest rates  
34

### 35 Chapter III 36 Food Council 37

38 **Section 14. National Food Security Council** - A National Food Security Council,  
39 hereafter referred to as Council, is hereby created as an attached and independent  
40 agency to the Office of the President.  
41

42 **Section 15. Mandate of the Council** - The Council is mandated to act as the check  
43 and balance organization for the food security system. It shall oversee the effective  
44 distribution, procurement, and targeting of beneficiaries as mandated in this Act. It  
45 shall also serve as a coordinating body for the different departments involved in the  
46 implementation of this Act.  
47

48 **Section 16. Chairperson of the Council** - The Chairperson of the Council shall be  
49 appointed to a six year term by the President of the Philippines. No person may be  
50 Chairperson if he has not met the following criteria:



- a) Ten (10) years of work experience in a CSO involved in Food Security
- b) Has no relatives, to the second degree of consanguinity, in the government
- c) Has good moral character
- d) No pending cases

**Section 17. Membership of the Council** - The Council shall consist of the following members:

- 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
- 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 (60) days from  
2 the appointment its members, the Council shall promulgate such rules and  
3 regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.  
4

5 **Section 22. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is subsequently  
6 declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are not affected  
7 thereby shall remain in full force and effect.  
8

9 **Section. 23. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
10 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive letter 'S' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.