



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

Seventeenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 234

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| HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES | |
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Introduced by Honorable Rodante D. Marcoleta

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the Philippines, under-nourishment or malnutrition has always been a grave concern. The malnutrition problem is a manifestation of widespread poverty in the country. Thus, it is prevalent in depressed barangays and municipalities in the rural areas and the countryside.

Consistent with its commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals, the government seeks to combat malnutrition as the country struggles to reduce health problems of micronutrient and protein-energy malnutrition including vitamin A deficiency disorders (VADO), iron deficiency anemia (IDA) and iodine deficiency disorders (IDO), the latter being considered one of the developing countries' most debilitating and intractable public health problems affecting nearly two billion people, majority of whom are children.

Malnutrition hampers the physical growth of a child and later affects his mental health, productivity and prospect for employment. The problem

of malnutrition, therefore, calls for a more lasting solution. It calls for an integrated development approach that complements traditional nutrition intervention. The Barangay Integrated Development Approach for Nutrition Improvement (BIDANI) is one such approach.

BIDANI will be an active research program to be spearheaded by the participating state colleges and universities as a regular program that will address the nutritional and general well-being of the poor following the National Nutrition Council's (NNC) theme, "*Pagkain at paglaki ay bantayan, upang ang wastong nutrisyon ay makamantan.*" In a way, it will seek to encourage every family and community to maintain children's normal growth, through proper diet and regular growth monitoring, a household habit.

This bill seeks to establish the BIDANI network program. There is a need to put nutrition at the forefront of learning and expose the different principles of medicines in relation to nutrition. Once approved, the national government is assured of a 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.



RODANTE D. MARCOLETA



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

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 “Barangay Integrated Development Approach for Nutrition Improvement (BIDANI) Act.”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to recognize nutrition as a basic human right, just as the rights to health and to life are. Towards this end, the State shall promote vigorously the importance of nutrition as a public good and a public concern that can be

achieved satisfactorily through a multi-sectoral support. It shall work towards the provision of the nutritional needs of the poor sector of the Filipino society who are deprived of said right. Further, the State shall give utmost support to programs and projects that are responsive to the nutritional needs of the people.

SEC. 3. ***Objectives*** – This Act shall have the following objectives:

- a) to encourage the cooperation and participation of academic institutions and local government units in promoting the nutritional well-being of the people;
- b) to evolve among state universities and colleges (SUCs) an effective action-research network program that will improve the nutrition and general well-being of the rural poor, thereby assisting in the development of local communities; and
- c) to enhance the productivity and employability of the rural poor by improving their nutrition and life status.

SEC. 4. ***Establishment of the Barangay Integrated Development Approach for Nutrition Improvement Program.*** – The Barangay Integrated Development Approach for Nutrition Improvement (BIDANI) is hereby established as a nutrition-in-development research program involving SUCs

and which aims to assist the national government in improving the nutrition and general well-being of the poor.

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

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

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

- a) develop competent SUCs which shall assist in achieving the nutrition-in-development objectives of the NNC. These SUCs shall capacitate its core team members to ensure that in-planning nutrition shall be integrated in all areas/sectors of local governance. To realize this goal, continuous training of trainers on the BIDANI strategy and on the different BIDANI innovative

strategies for all BIDANI stakeholders at different levels will be conducted by the NNC,

- b) ensure the inclusion of best nutrition practices of successful local government units (LGUs) through the participation of local nutrition management teams. Partners SUCs through the BIDANI, shall build the capabilities of the citizenry for self-help and self-reliance, catalyze action through the involvement of various stakeholders, complement with the efforts of the government organizations (GOs), non-government organizations (NGOs), private organizations (POs) and private sectors and link the community with existing resources.

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

- a. State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) - Partnership with SUCs shall be formalized and operationalized through an execution of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the University of the Philippines - Los Baños represented by its Chancellor, and the President of the concerned SUCs. Upon approval of the MOA, the BIDANI program shall be operationalized under the Office of the

Vice President for Research and Extension (OVPRE) of the partner SUC. A BIDANI SUC will then choose their partners LGUs.

- b. *City/Municipality Local Government Units* – The implementation of BIDANI as a development strategy in the LGUs will commence upon the approval of the city or municipal of the nutrition plans formulated by the SUC concerned through MOA or city/municipal resolutions. A City/Municipal Organizational Machinery called C/MTAC, composed of heads and representatives of different city/municipal line agencies who will be responsible for the implementation, monitoring, evaluation and replication of the BIDANI strategy in the locality shall be created.
- c. *Barangay Units* – The realization of the BIDANI as a development strategy shall be accomplished at the barangay level. The Barangay Development Council (BDC) shall be enhanced through an expanded BDC membership called Program Planning and Implementation Committee which shall include representatives from the Sangguniang Barangay, Barangay Development Council, Purok and other community leaders who shall be trained on the BIDANI strategy to ensure that the processes for planning and management of development programs, projects and activities will

be participative and responsive to the needs of the members of the barangay.

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

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

- a) *Barangay Integrated Development Approach for Nutrition Improvement (BIDANI)* – Upon approval of this Act, the Barangay Integrated Development Plan (BIDP) shall include the barangays' plans and programs relative to nutrition, which plans shall be integrated into the municipal development plan.
- b) *Barangay Management Information System (BMIS)* – In the conduct of its research activities, the concerned SUC shall develop a people-based information system which focuses on the identification of the needs of the barangay through an efficient and effective data collection needed for program planning,

management and implementation of various projects and activities at the barangays.

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

SEC. 8. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within the period of sixty (60) days, the National Nutrition Council (NNC), in coordination with the participating state colleges and universities, shall prepare and issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 9. ***Funding.*** – The amount necessary for the implementation of the BIDANI network program shall be included in the budget of participating SUCs in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Participating SUCs may also get funds, donations and other forms of financial support from foreign and local persons, institutions and governments for the implementation of the BIDANI network program.

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

SEC. 11. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,