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 (IFPRI), 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.

VICTOR A. YAP
Representative, 2nd District of Tarlac

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:

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. 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 (LGUs) in promoting the nutritional well-being of the country;

(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 BIDANI Program is hereby established as a nutrition-in-development research program involving SUCs 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 at its root cause, which is linked to poverty, insufficiency of food, social deprivation and underdevelopment.

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 shall be conducted by the NNC; and

(b) Ensure the inclusion of best nutrition practices of successful LGUs through the participation of local nutrition management teams. Partner 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 government organizations (GOs), nongovernment 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 operationatized through an execution of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the University of the Philippines - Los Banos 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 partner LGUs.

(b) City/Municipal Local Government Units. - The implementation of the BIDANI as a development strategy in the LGUs will commence upon the approval by the city or municipality of the nutrition plans formulated by the SUC concerned through a MOA or city/municipal resolutions. A city/municipal organizational machinery called the City/Municipal Technical Action Committee (CIMfAC), composed of the heads and representatives of different city/municipal line agencies who shall 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 barayg, BDC, 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 Plan (BIDP). - Upon approval of this Act the 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; and
(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
NNC, in coordination with the participating SUCs, 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. II. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.