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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
<p>Special Committee on Food Security (Technical Working Group)</p>	<p>Briefing on the feeding programs of two government agencies and a private organization in relation to the draft Substitute Bill to HBs 247, 3419, 3937 and 767 (National Food Security Act):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Nutrition Council (NNC) 	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Gil “Kabarangay” Acosta (3rd District, Palawan), listened to the briefing conducted by the National Nutrition Council (NNC), Department of Agriculture (DA), and <i>Gawad Kalinga</i> (GK).</p> <p>NNC Nutrition Policy and Planning Division Chief Maria Lourdes Vega underscored the need to provide adequate nutrition for the first 1,000 days of a child. She explained that the first 1,000 days, which starts from conception until the child reaches his/her second birthday, is considered globally as the golden window of opportunity for nutrition and related interventions to have a positive impact on the child’s physical and mental development.</p> <p>Vega said that based on studies, the failure to provide optimal nutrition in the first 1,000 days would result to lower intelligence, poor resistance to infections, increased risk to cancer and diabetes, and reduced productivity in adulthood. These translate to reduced productivity for the entire country estimated at 12% of the gross domestic product (GDP). Achieving optimal nutrition, according to Vega, includes providing proper nutrition to pregnant and lactating women, infants and young children.</p> <p>While undernutrition among Filipino children has decreased from 1989 to 2015, Vega disclosed that the decline has been very slow.</p> <p>Thus, according to Vega, the government instituted the “First 1000 Days of Life Program” to ensure the full development of the child through the provision of nutrition, health, early child learning and social services.</p> <p>The program, which is spearheaded by the NNC in collaboration with other government agencies, covers pregnant women (nine months of pregnancy) and infants/children aged zero to two years.</p> <p>The First 1000 Days of Life Program involves the following components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate nutrition of pregnant and lactating women; • Exclusive breastfeeding in the first six months with initiation within the first hour of birth; • Continued breastfeeding up to two years and beyond; • Appropriate complementary feeding starting at six months; and • Early childhood care and development interventions (health, social services, and early learning).

