

# Republic of the Philippines Department of Social Welfare and Development

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#### REPRESENTATIVE LEO RAFAEL M. CUEVA

Chairperson Special Committee on Food Security RVM Bldg., House of Representatives Quezon City

#### Dear Chairperson Cueva:

The Department of Social Welfare and Development supports House Bill Nos. 1102, 1547 and 2908 entitled: "An Act Creating the Office of the National Food Security and Appropriating 20 Billion Pesos from the Funds of PAGCOR and PCSO", introduced by Representative Winston "Winnie" Castelo and House Bill No. 4361 entitled: "Food Security Framework Act," introduced by Representative Amado T. Espino, Jr., which seek to develop a comprehensive framework that will harmonize provisions of all laws related to Filipinos' right to adequate food.

To contribute to the bills' enhancement, we are recommending the following:

- 1. To consolidate the bills into one.
- 2. On HB No. 4361
  - 2.1 Long Title and Sec. 1 (Short Title)

To amend the Long and Short Titles to "An Act Providing for a Framework for Food Security and Nutrition Establishing for the Purpose a Food Security Authority and Appropriating Funds Therefor" or the "Food Security and Nutrition Framework Act".

The right to adequate food should also take into consideration the nutritional value and appropriateness of food to age groups including their cultural acceptability.

This right should also be complemented by promoting local production and consumption of diverse types of food.

2.2 Sec. 14 (Inter-Agency Council on the Right to Adequate Food) and Sec. 26 (Implementing Rules and Regulations)

To include the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) in the Inter-Agency Council on the Food Security and Nutrition Framework and in the drafting of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) for efficient and effective implementation of the law.

## 2.3 Sec. 15 (Powers and Functions of the Inter-Agency Council on the Adequate Food Security Act)

To clearly specify the roles and responsibilities of the member agencies for purposes of transparency and accountability.

### 2.4 Sec. 16 (Minimum Amount of Food)

- a. To amend the title from "Minimum Amount of Food" to "<u>Standards on the</u> Amount of Food". Further, these standards should consider times of peace and disaster.
- b. To include the local government units (LGUs) in ensuring the regular, reliable and timely delivery of a minimum amount of food to any person who is suffering from hunger or is at risk of suffering from hunger or under-nutrition, because the basic services are already devolved to them.
- c. The National Nutrition Council (NNC) and the Department of Science and Technology-Food and Nutrition Research Institute (DOST-FNRI) are the appropriate offices to determine the exact quantity of calories, proteins and micronutrients, to which the minimum amount of food will correspond. Also, to consider the recommended nutritional value and appropriateness to age groups as well as the cultural aspect of food being served.

For consideration of the Committee.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

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