



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development

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02 February 2017

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 No. 767** entitled, "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" or the "**National Food Security Act**", introduced by Representative Emmeline Y. Aglipa-Villar. The bill calls for the coordinative efforts of the national government agencies to address the nutritional needs of children 0-13 years and food security in general.

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

1. On **Section 4. Creation of a National Hunger Targeting System**

The inclusion of the Department of Science and Technology-Food and Nutrition Research Institute-(DOST-FNRI) as one of the agencies tasked to establish the NHTS since this agency conducts the National Nutrition Surveys to determine and evaluate the food intake, nutrition and health status of Filipinos and provide official statistics on food, nutrition and health situation in the country.

2. On **Section 5. Infant Feeding Program**

- a. **Food packets should only be given to children aged 7-12 months** since the Nutritional Guidelines for Filipinos indicate that infants should be exclusively breastfed for the first 6 months of life. This is also to minimize infant mortality which may be caused by diarrhea resulting from the faulty handling of foods.
- b. May we also recommend that **this provision be expanded to address the first 1,000 days of a child.**

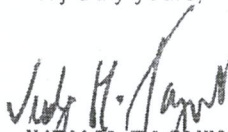
3. On **Section 14. National Food Security Council**

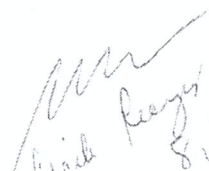
We recommend **strengthening the mandate of the National Nutrition Council (NNC)** as the highest policy-making and coordinating body on nutrition rather than creating a new structure. This is to ensure effective distribution of food to address the nutritional needs of children 0-13 years old.

For consideration of the Committee.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


JUDY M. TAGUIWALO
Secretary


Alicia Reyes
Feb. 8, 2017