

HONORABLE BIENVENIDO M. ABANTE, JR.
Chairperson
Committee on Human Rights
House of Representatives
Quezon City

Dear **Representative ABANTE,**

The Department of Social Welfare and Development supports **House Bills Numbered 1175, 1277, 1299, 1876, 2189, 2303, 2531, and 6171** entitled, “*An Act Providing a Framework for the Right to Adequate Food, and for Other Purposes*” or the “**Right to Adequate Food Framework Act**”, authored by Representatives Bryan B. Revilla, Luis Raymund F. Villafuerte Jr., et al., Wilbert Lee, Ching Bernos, Ray Florence T. Reyes, Khymer Adan T. Olaso, Marissa P. Magsino, and Margarita Ignacia B. Nograls, respectively, which seek to harmonize provisions of all laws related to Filipinos’ right to adequate food, clarify the scope and content of the right to adequate food, establish standards for compliance, principles, monitoring and evaluation spectrum and penal provision for the efficient and effective implementation of the law.

For the enhancement of the Bills, we recommend the following:

1. To consolidate the Bills.
2. **SEC. 3. Definitions**
 - 2.1 To consider expanding the definition of “Hunger” to include other causes, such as, inequity, poverty, war and conflict and climate change.
 - 2.2 To consider including Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDL) under “Vulnerable Groups”.
3. **On Targets under SEC. 10 of HBNs 1175 and 2303; SEC. 15 of HBNs 1277, 1299, 1876, 2531, and 6171; and SEC. 12. Targets and Indicators under HBN 2189**
 - 3.1 To clarify and/or provide a more realistic basis for the targeted decrease in incidence of hunger and the increase in lands devoted to food production given the trend in the incidence of hunger in the past years, to wit:
 - 2019 – 9.3%*
 - 2020 – 13.1%*
 - 2021 – 11.8%*
 - 3rd Quarter 2022 – 11.4%**

*<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/03/25>

**<https://www.rappler.com/nation/hunger-rate-philippines-october-2022>

3.2 To harmonize the timelines for the targeted reduction in the incidence of hunger with that of the timelines for increasing the number or expanding the area of lands devoted to food production, i.e. 50% reduction in incidence of hunger in 10 years or 100% increase in land devoted to food production.

4. SEC. 11. Review and Rationalization of Existing Policies, Law, Rules, Regulations, Plans, Programs, Activities and Projects under HBN 2189

To consider involving other stakeholders and provide incentives to encourage corporate, non-profit and public partnerships in addressing hunger.

5. SEC. 12. Commission on the Right to Adequate Food under HBN 1175

5.1 To consider the present administration's campaign for the rightsizing of the government agencies, and thus, recommending the incorporation of the powers provided in this Section to the **Commission on Human Rights (CHR)** instead of establishing another Agency of Commission.

5.2 To consider creating an interagency task force instead of a Commission and designating the **National Nutrition Council** as Secretariat, or have the then **Interagency Task Force on Zero Hunger** reconstituted and assume the responsibilities.

6. SEC. 13. Standards on the Amount of Food under HBNS 1175 and 2189

To have the Local Government Units (LGUs), instead of the DSWD, ensure regular, reliable, and timely delivery of a minimum amount of food to any person who is suffering from hunger or under nutrition in view of the Mandanas-Garcia Ruling.

7. On the Penal Provisions, SEC. 20 of HBNS 1175, 2189, and 2303; SEC. 26 of HBNS 1277, 1299, 1876, 2531 and 6171

7.1 To consider separating the violative acts committed by private individuals or groups from that of public officials;

7.2 To provide a higher penalty for public officials;

7.3 To include monetary penalty other than *prison correccional*; and

7.4 To include "hoarding" as among those acts to be penalized.

8. **On the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)**, recommending the inclusion of relevant offices found under Section on Institutional Responsibilities, in the crafting of the IRR.

9. **Other Comments**


9.1 Consider low income, high risks, limited livelihood opportunities, Geographically-Isolated and Disadvantaged Area/s (GIDA), among others, in the area of coverage;

9.2 Consider strengthening the existing Community Food Banks and Food Pantries in the country to capacitate GIDA areas, and low income communities in terms of economic progress and respond to hunger issues.

This is being submitted for the Chairperson's consideration.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


REX GATCHALIAN
Secretary
Date: MAR 17 2023