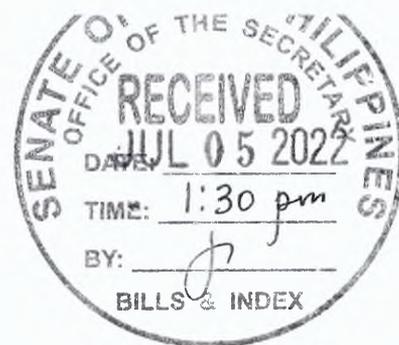


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

SENATE
S. No. 30



Introduced by **SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.**

**AN ACT
PROVIDING A FRAMEWORK TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE THE RIGHT TO
ADEQUATE FOOD**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The most pressing issue during the novel Coronavirus pandemic is the accessibility and availability of food. Needless to say, food is an essential need for human life. While most businesses have been ordered closed due to strict quarantine measures, food producers, processors and distributors were allowed to operate. Nevertheless, as groceries and public markets remained open, many families did not have the capacity to buy sufficient food due to economic setbacks and loss of livelihood. Some remote areas also experienced shortage of food stocks and increased food prices due to imposition of severe travel restrictions and limited food production.

According to a survey of the Social Weather Stations (SWS), a record-high hunger rate was recorded in September 2020 at 30.7% or an estimated 7.6 million families. This is significantly higher compared to the pre-pandemic rate of 8.8% for December 2019¹.

Food insecurity and hunger are issues not born from this current health emergency. As per the 2020 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World Report of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Philippines has the most number of food insecure people in the Southeast Asian region from 2017 to 2019 with 59

¹ Fourth Quarter 2020 Social Weather Survey: Hunger eases to 16.0% of families in November. December 16, 2020. <http://www.sws.org.ph/swsmain/artclidisppage/?artcsyscode=ART-20201216145500>

million Filipinos suffering from moderate to severe lack of consistent access to food. In addition, a total of 15.4 million were considered undernourished Filipinos.

Official data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) show that 5.2% of Filipinos were not able to meet their basic food needs or 5.5 million Filipinos were considered food poor in 2018².

This bill seeks to address the grave statistics of hunger and food insecurity in the country, consistent with the principles of the Constitution, specifically on the right to life and human dignity, and the enshrined policy of an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development.

Moreover, this measure breathes life and gives a local framework to the international treaties providing for the right to food of which the Philippines is a state party.

Under Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights:

1. The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the **right** of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including **adequate food**, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions. The States Parties will take appropriate steps to ensure the realization of this right, recognizing to this effect the essential importance of international cooperation based on free consent.
2. The States Parties to the present Covenant, recognizing the **fundamental right** of everyone **to be free from hunger**, shall take, individually and through international cooperation, the measures, including specific programmes... [emphasis supplied]

As guaranteed under Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which is considered as a milestone document in the history of human rights and paved the way for the adoption of many human rights treaties:

1. Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including **food**, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the

² <https://psa.gov.ph/system/files/FY2018%20PS.pdf?width=950&height=700&iframe=true>

event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control. [emphasis supplied]

Moreover, this bill is consistent with the attainment of Goal 2 of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) which seeks to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture. Specifically, Goal 2 targets to ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round, to end all forms of malnutrition, and to address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons.

Lastly, this proposed measure is aligned with and further strengthens the current administration's laudable efforts to eradicate hunger, particularly Executive Order 101, s. 2020 which created an Inter-Agency Task Force on Zero Hunger. The task force is directed to ensure that government policies, initiatives and projects on attaining zero hunger shall be coordinated, responsive and effective.

The Right to Adequate Food Bill was already passed by the House of Representatives on Third and Final Reading for two consecutive Congresses.

The passage of this bill is hereby earnestly sought.


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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AN ACT
PROVIDING A FRAMEWORK TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE THE RIGHT TO
ADEQUATE FOOD

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representative of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "*Kabalikat sa Agrikultura*
2 *at Pagkain Act*"

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – Consistent with the principles enshrined in the
4 Constitution as well as the provisions of the International Covenant on Economic,
5 Social and Cultural Rights, Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Convention
6 on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, to which the
7 Philippines is a State Party, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to guarantee
8 the right to adequate food.

9 Adequate food is not a matter of charity, but a legal entitlement. Hunger is
10 inconsistent with human dignity and human rights, and must be eliminated. Towards
11 this end, the State shall provide for a framework to address and eliminate hunger in
12 an organized manner, and protect the right of the people to adequate food.

13 Sec. 3. *Definitions.* – As used in this Act:

14 a) *Dietary needs* refer to a mix of nutrients for physical and mental growth,
15 development and maintenance, and physical activity, that follow human
16 physiological needs at all stages throughout the life cycle, and according to
17 gender and occupation;

- 1 b) *Food* refers to solid, liquid, and semi-liquid nourishment, as well as drinking
2 water, and when taken into the body serves to nourish, build and repair
3 tissues, supply energy or regulate body processes;
- 4 c) *Food blockade* refers to an act of cutting off food supplies from a particular
5 area by force, either in part or totally;
- 6 d) *Food emergency* refers to a situation in which access to food is endangered,
7 that caused by natural events like drought, floods, storms, earthquakes, or
8 crop failures resulting from pests or diseases; or by human agency such as
9 internal or international armed conflict; or infectious disease outbreaks or
10 pandemics, such as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and
11 Coronavirus-19 disease (Covid-19);
- 12 e) *Food sovereignty* refers to the right of people to healthy and culturally
13 appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable
14 methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems,
15 putting the aspirations and needs of those who produce, distribute and
16 consume food at the heart of food systems and policies rather than the
17 demands of markets and corporations;
- 18 f) *Hunger* refers to a condition in which people do not get enough food to eat
19 to provide the necessary nutrients for fully productive, active and healthy
20 living due to the unavailability and inaccessibility of food, which may be (a)
21 acute, such as during a major disaster when food supply channels are cut,
22 (b) chronic, when people are regularly not getting enough food to conduct
23 an active life for a long time, or (c) a condition of starvation, which is not
24 having enough food of any sort to eat, or (d) undernourishment, which is
25 having enough food to eat but of inadequate quality;
- 26 g) *Vulnerable groups* refer to those who are particularly disadvantaged such
27 as indigenous peoples, ethnic, linguistic or religious minorities, persons with
28 disabilities, persons living with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) or
29 Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), refugees and internally
30 displaced people, elderly, women, including pregnant and lactating mothers
31 and children, particularly those from zero to twenty-three (23) months of
32 age.

1 *Sec. 4. Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food.* – Every person
2 has the right to have regular, permanent and unrestricted access, either directly or by
3 means of financial purchases, to quantitatively and qualitatively adequate, sufficient
4 and safe food, corresponding to the cultural traditions of the people to which a
5 consumer belongs, and which ensure physical and mental, individual and collective,
6 fulfilling and dignified life, free of fear.

7 The right to adequate food is realized when every man, woman and child, alone
8 or in community with others, have physic of calories, proteins and other specific
9 nutrients. The right to adequate food must be realized progressively.

10 *Sec. 5. Core content on the Right to Adequate Food.* – The core content of the
11 right to adequate food includes the concepts of food availability and accessibility,
12 which must be in a quantity and quality sufficient to satisfy the dietary needs of
13 individuals, and in ways that are sustainable, and do not interfere with the enjoyment
14 of other human rights.

15 *Sec. 6. Food Adequacy Standard.* – Central to the realization of the right to
16 adequate food is the standard of adequacy in terms of quality, quantity and cultural
17 acceptability, sustainability of food availability and access.

18 The standard of adequacy includes a number of factors which must be
19 considered in determining whether particular foods or diets that are accessible can be
20 considered the most appropriate under given circumstances. Sustainability is
21 intrinsically linked to the concept of adequate food or food security, implying that food
22 must be accessible to both present and future generations.

23 The concept of adequacy to a large extent is determined by prevailing social,
24 economic, cultural, climatic, ecological and other conditions, while sustainability
25 incorporates long-term availability and accessibility.

26 *Sec. 7. Availability Standard.* – Food must be available for feeding oneself
27 directly from productive land or other natural resources, or for well-functioning
28 distribution, processing, and market systems that can move food from the site of
29 production to where it is needed on accordance with demand.

30 *Sec. 8. Accessibility Standard.* – Food accessibility is both economic, which
31 refers to the acquisition pattern or entitlement through which people procure their
32 food, and physical food must be accessible to everyone.

1 Economic accessibility means that the personal or household financial cost
2 associated with the acquisition of food for an adequate diet should be at a level such
3 that the attainment and satisfaction of other basic needs are not threatened or
4 compromised. Economic accessibility applies to any acquisition pattern or entitlement
5 through which people procure their food, and is a measure of the extent to which it is
6 satisfactory for the enjoyment of the right to adequate food.

7 Physical accessibility means that adequate food must be accessible to everyone,
8 including physically vulnerable individuals, such as infants and young children, elderly
9 people, those belonging to the informal sector, the physically disabled, the terminally
10 ill and persons with persistent medical problems, including the mentally ill. Victims of
11 natural disasters, people living in disaster-prone areas and other specially
12 disadvantaged groups, and many indigenous peoples groups whose access to their
13 ancestral lands is threatened, need special attention and priority consideration with
14 respect to accessibility of food.

15 Socially vulnerable groups such as landless persons and other particularly
16 impoverished segments of the population may need attention through special
17 programs.

18 *Sec. 9. Cultural or Consumer Acceptability.* – In providing food, there is a need
19 to consider, as far as possible, the perceived non-nutrient based values attached to
20 food and the consumer's concerns on the accessible food supplies.

21 Food must be free from adverse substances to ensure food safety. Measures
22 must be taken to maintain, adapt, or strengthen dietary diversity and appropriate
23 consumption and feeding patterns, including optimal breast-feeding, to ensure that
24 changes in availability and access to food supply do not negatively affect dietary
25 composition and intake. Care must also be taken to identify and avoid or destroy
26 naturally occurring toxins.

27 Freedom from adverse substances implies that the requirements for food safety
28 and a range of protective measures are implemented to prevent contamination of food
29 stuff through adulteration, bad environmental hygiene, or inappropriate handling at
30 different stages throughout the food chain.

31 *Sec. 10. Conditions for the Exercise of the Right to Adequate Food.* – Every
32 person has the right to live in conditions that shall enable the person to:

- 1 a) Acquire food directly from productive land or other natural resources; or
2 rely on well-functioning food distribution, processing and market systems,
3 or both;
- 4 b) Financially acquire a sufficient quantity and quality of food and to satisfy
5 other basic needs;
- 6 c) Be safe from the risk of losing access to food, as a consequence of sudden
7 shocks, like an economic or climatic crisis, or one that is brought about by
8 internal displacements of people, or cyclical events, such as seasonal food
9 insecurity;
- 10 d) Have the opportunity of good food utilization through access to adequate
11 diet, clean water, sanitation and health care and to reach a state of
12 nutritional well-being, where all physiological needs are met; and
- 13 e) Access food or diet that is the most appropriate under given circumstances,
14 in terms of their nutritional value and cultural acceptability.

15 Every infant, girl and boy, has a right to adequate food and to optimal health,
16 development and nutrition adequate for their age, growth and development.

17 Every woman has a right to adequate food and adequate nutrition during
18 pregnancy and lactation.

19 Unless it is provided by law, or is necessary for the purpose of a compelling
20 public interest, and is compatible with the nature of the right to adequate food, there
21 is no limitation on the right to adequate food.

22 *Sec. 11. Freedom from Hunger.* – Every person has a right to be free from
23 hunger. Every person suffering from hunger or under nutrition or at risk of suffering
24 from hunger or under nutrition is entitled to a minimum amount of food according to
25 one’s age, sex, health status and occupation, as provided for in Section 19 of this Act.

26 *Sec. 12. Principles.* – The provisions of this Act are founded on the rights-based
27 principles of participation, accountability, non-discrimination transparency, human
28 dignity, empowerment, and rule of law, and are consistent with the progressive
29 realization of the right to adequate food.

30 *Sec. 13. Non-discrimination.* – Any distinction, exclusion, or restriction made on
31 the basis of race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or
32 social origin, property, birth or other status, which has the effect or purpose of

1 impairing or limiting the capacity of an individual to exercise the right to adequate
2 food, is unlawful and shall be sanctioned in accordance with law.

3 All forms of discrimination against women with regard to the right to adequate
4 food, including less favorable treatment of women for reasons of pregnancy and
5 maternity, shall be eliminated and prevented. The equality of opportunities between
6 men and women shall be promoted.

7 The prohibition of discrimination shall not include government action to remedy
8 past effects of discrimination against particular individuals or groups and to promote
9 equality of opportunities with regard to the right to adequate food.

10 Sec. 14. *Governmental Obligations.* – The State, as the primary duty bearer,
11 has the duty to respect, protect, and fulfil the right to adequate food and maintain
12 food sovereignty, in accordance with the conditions provided under Section 10 of this
13 Act.

14 The State has the core obligation to take the necessary action to mitigate and
15 alleviate hunger, even in times of natural or other disasters. The right to be free from
16 hunger ensures a minimum daily nutritional intake and the bare survival of a person.
17 The right to adequate food goes beyond freedom from hunger.

18 a) *Respect* – the State has the obligation not to interfere with or impair the
19 enjoyment of the right to adequate food. No public authority may deprive
20 any person of food or means for its procurement, apply laws and
21 regulations, or pursue a policy or practice, in a way that may result in
22 preventing the enjoyment of or infringing the human right to adequate food,
23 or repeal formally or suspend legislation necessary for the continued
24 enjoyment of the right to adequate food.

25 b) *Protect* – the State has the duty to provide guarantees against threats and
26 risks stemming from private actors or societal forces that are controllable
27 by State action. It shall take preventive measures necessary to protect
28 persons whose capacities to access sufficient and adequate food or means
29 for its procurement are endangered by the acts of others. It also must
30 review the relevant administrative and legislative framework ensuring that
31 activities within their competence undertaken by private actors do not
32 infringe on the right to adequate food of others.

1 c) *Fulfill* – the State shall facilitate the enjoyment of the right to adequate food
2 by adopting or pursuing appropriate policies and measures that promote
3 the human right to adequate food and to create and maintain conditions
4 under which every person can freely and regularly enjoy the right to
5 adequate food.

6 Sec. 15. *Targets.* – The State shall ensure that in two and a half years (2 ½)
7 after the effectivity of this Act, the incidence of hunger is reduced by twenty-five
8 percent (25%) from the level recorded at the time of the passage of this Act: *Provided,*
9 That five (5) years after the effectivity of this Act, such incidence of hunger will be
10 further reduced by twenty-five percent (25%): *Provided, further,* That in seven and a
11 half (7 ½) years, the incidence of hunger will be further reduced by twenty-five
12 percent (25%): *Provided, finally,* That in ten (10) years, there shall be zero hunger
13 incidence.

14 The State shall also ensure that within ten (10) years from the effectivity of this
15 Act, land devoted to food production is increased to fifty percent (50%) of all prime
16 agricultural land in every region, and within the same period, the State shall ensure
17 that the following indicators are considerably and steadily increased:

- 18 a) Percentage of development of ancestral lands;
- 19 b) Percentage of rural population with access to productive resources;
- 20 c) Share of budget spent on programs aimed at creating access to productive
21 resources;
- 22 d) Percentage of budget spent on agri-research, agri-extension, irrigation,
23 training, technology, credits and rural development;
- 24 e) Percentage of rural female-headed households, or rural women, with legal
25 title to agriculture lands;
- 26 f) Percentage of public budget allocation for social transfer programs to those
27 unable to feed themselves;
- 28 g) Coverage of marginalized and disadvantaged population taking part in social
29 transfer programs;
- 30 h) Percentage of marginalized and disadvantaged population covered by a
31 public nutrition supplement program;

- 1 i) Percentage of population aware of available food and nutrition programs;
2 and
3 j) Coverage of school feeding programs.

4 The percentage rates used as indicators herein shall also be stipulated in the
5 rules and regulations issued to implement the provisions of this Act.

6 Periodic reviews shall be undertaken to ensure compliance with set targets. In
7 the implementation of this Act, priority shall be given to identify areas with chronically
8 malnourished population. In measuring the incidence of hunger, the key primary data
9 sources will include national nutrition surveys of the Philippine Statistics Authority
10 (PSA), namely the Family Income and Expenditure Survey and the Annual Poverty
11 Indicators Survey, and global hunger indices as benchmarks.

12 *Sec. 16. Institutional Responsibilities.* – The following agencies of the
13 government are required to fulfil their respective mandates in a manner that shall
14 ensure full implementation of the primary objectives of this Act:

- 15 a) Department of Agriculture (DA);
16 b) Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR);
17 c) Department of Budget and Management (DBM);
18 d) Department of Education (DepEd);
19 e) Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR);
20 f) Department of Health (DOH);
21 g) Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG);
22 h) Department of Justice (DOJ);
23 i) Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE);
24 j) Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH);
25 k) Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD);
26 l) Department of Science and Technology (DOST);
27 m) Department of Trade and Industry (DTI);
28 n) Commission on Human Rights (CHR);
29 o) Commission on Higher Education (CHED);
30 p) National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC);
31 q) National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA);
32 r) National Food Authority (NFA);

- 1 s) National Nutrition Council (NNC);
- 2 t) Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA); and
- 3 u) Other agencies and instrumentalities of the government whose functions
- 4 are necessary for the efficient and effective implementation of the right to
- 5 adequate food.

6 In addition, the development of a fully integrated whole-of-government
7 approach to implement the national policy governing the right to adequate food and
8 the use of a human rights-based approach for the establishment and implementation
9 of the national policy must be institutionalized.

10 *Sec. 17. Commission on the Right to Adequate Food.* – There is hereby created
11 a Commission on the Right to Adequate Food, hereinafter referred to as the
12 Commission, which shall be attached to the Office of the President.

13 The Commission shall be the primary policy-making and coordinating body to
14 guarantee full exercise of the right to adequate food. It shall exercise monitoring and
15 oversight functions, apply human rights principles, conduct objective impact
16 assessment on all government policies, programs and projects prior to adoption and
17 implementation, work in close cooperation, and coordination with relevant
18 government agencies and in consultations with civil society organizations and the
19 private sector, and use all available resources for the efficient and effective
20 implementation of this Act.

21 It shall formulate a national food policy consistent with the policy formulated
22 by the Inter-Agency Task Force on Zero Hunger. The Commission shall implement
23 programs of action to eradicate hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition and
24 promote sustainable agriculture.

25 The Commission on the Right to Adequate Food shall have the following
26 powers:

- 27 a) Receive complaints of violations of the right to adequate food from
- 28 individuals and groups;
- 29 b) Investigate, *motu proprio*, or upon complaint by any party, all forms of
- 30 violations of the right to adequate food;

- 1 c) Adopt operational guidelines and rules of procedure, and cite for contempt
2 individuals and groups for their violations in accordance with the Rules of
3 Court;
- 4 d) Provide appropriate legal measures for the protection of the right to
5 adequate food of all persons within the Philippines, as well as Philippine
6 citizens residing abroad, and provide for preventive measures and legal aid
7 services to the underprivileged whose right to adequate food has been
8 violated or needs protection;
- 9 e) Establish a continuing program of research, education and information to
10 enhance respect for the primacy of the right to adequate food;
- 11 f) Recommend to Congress effective measures to promote the right to
12 adequate food, to harmonize existing laws affecting the right to adequate
13 food, to ensure their complementation, and the availability of remedies for
14 violations and compensation to victims of violations of the right to adequate
15 food;
- 16 g) Monitor the Government's compliance with its obligations in regard to the
17 right to adequate food;
- 18 h) Request the assistance of any department, bureau, office or agency in the
19 performance of its functions;
- 20 i) Appoint officers and employees in accordance with law; and
21 j) Perform such other duties and functions as may be provided by law.

22 *Sec. 18. Composition.* – The Commission is composed of a chairperson and two
23 (2) members who must be natural-born citizens; at least thirty-five (35) years of age,
24 at the time of their appointment; and must not have been candidates for any elective
25 position in the elections immediately preceding their appointment. At least one (1) of
26 them must be a member of the Philippine Bar.

27 The Chairperson and members of the Commission shall not, during their tenure,
28 hold any other office or employment. Neither shall they engage in the practice of any
29 profession, or in the active management or control of any business which, in any way,
30 may affect the functions of their office, nor shall they be financially interested, directly
31 or indirectly, in any contract with, or in any franchise or privilege granted by the

1 government, any of its subdivisions, agencies or instrumentalities, including
2 government-owned or controlled corporations or their subsidiaries.

3 The Chairperson and members of the Commission shall be appointed by the
4 President and shall not be reappointed to another term. From among the members,
5 one (1) shall serve as the chairperson and shall hold office for ten (10) years, another
6 member shall be appointed as Commissioner for seven (7) years, and another shall
7 be appointed Commissioner and shall serve for five (5) years, without reappointment.
8 A member who shall be appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve only the unexpired
9 portion of the term of the predecessor. In no case shall any member be appointed or
10 designated in a temporary or acting capacity.

11 The Chairperson and members of the Commission shall receive the same salary,
12 benefits, privileges and emoluments of a cabinet secretary and undersecretary
13 respectively.

14 *Sec. 19. Standards on the Amount of Food.* – Within one (1) year from the
15 effectivity of this Act, the Commission shall, in consultations with the DSWD, DILG,
16 NNC and the DOH, issue guidelines on the minimum amount of food for persons who
17 are suffering from hunger or undernourishment, or are at risk from suffering from
18 hunger of undernourishment, but who cannot take care of their own needs, due to
19 reasons beyond their control, including children whose parents die or disappear, or
20 otherwise no longer take care of them, elderly, and persons with disabilities. The
21 guidelines include:

- 22 a) The exact quantity of calories, proteins and micronutrients, to which the
23 minimum amount of food will correspond, according to the age, sex, health
24 status and occupation of a person;
- 25 b) A simple and accessible application or certification procedure for the
26 minimum amount of food entitlement with transparent, fair and non-
27 discriminatory eligibility or certification criteria; and
- 28 c) Relief mechanisms to ensure that such individuals are provided with their
29 minimum food requirement.

30 Specific support measures shall be designed and adopted to prevent or
31 compensate for disadvantages of the identified vulnerable persons or groups suffer
32 from, with regard to the enjoyment of their right to adequate food.

1 *Sec. 20 Emergencies.* – The Commission in coordination with the National
2 Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) shall:

- 3 a) Provide food emergency responses which sufficiently cover both early
4 warning responses and disaster preparedness in case of a crisis; and
5 organize and manage food responses efficiently and effectively;
- 6 b) Ensure that food supply responses are compatible with the right to adequate
7 food and international standards regulating emergencies; and
- 8 c) Initiate requests for international assistance in case of necessity; and
9 supervise and coordinate properly the distribution of food to intended
10 recipients.

11 *Sec. 21. Information Dissemination.* – All government agencies, under the
12 direction of the Commission in coordination with the Philippine News Agency (PNA)
13 and Philippine Information Agency (PIA), shall:

- 14 a) Inform the population about the rights established in this Act and the
15 implementing rules and regulations adopted upon its passage into law and
16 other measure taken for the purpose of facilitating and promoting the
17 realization of the right to adequate food; and
- 18 b) Use the most appropriate ways and methods of disseminating information
19 by providing information through all media forms; and in local languages,
20 notably in the most marginalized areas and among populations with a high
21 rate of illiteracy.

22 *Sec. 22. Education and Awareness Program.* – The Commission, in coordination
23 with the DepEd, CHED, and TESDA, shall ensure that:

- 24 a) School curriculum includes material related to food and nutrition education,
25 the right to adequate and human rights principles; and
- 26 b) Relevant adult education and training programs shall include materials
27 related to food and nutrition, the right to adequate food and human rights
28 principles.

29 *Sec. 23. International Cooperation.* – The Commission, in coordination with the
30 CHR and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), shall:

- 31 a) Ensure that activities undertaken in other countries, including those by
32 private actors, do not infringe on the enjoyment of the right to adequate

- 1 food by people in the concerned countries, in coordination with DA, DTI,
2 DOH, and NEDA and other relevant agencies;
- 3 b) Promote international cooperation and help to ensure the realization of the
4 right to adequate food in other countries, if in a position to do so; and
- 5 c) Ensure that international and other agreements which the Philippine
6 Government enters into, consider the guarantee on the right to food.

7 *Sec. 24. Monitoring and Evaluation System.* – There shall be an integrated
8 monitoring system that shall ensure that all government agencies at all levels, under
9 the supervision of the Commission on the Right to Adequate Food, shall:

- 10 a) Collect data related to food and nutrition security, using monitoring
11 methodologies and processes consistent with human rights principles;
- 12 b) Disaggregate collected data by age, sex, income, bracket, civil status and
13 ethnicity;
- 14 c) Monitor progress achieved in the realization of the right to adequate food;
15 and
- 16 d) Establish or identify an early warning mechanism for food supply shortages
17 and emergencies.

18 *Sec. 25. Representation and Participation of People's Organizations and Civil*
19 *Society.* – To guarantee public participation, the Commission shall ensure that:

- 20 a) All persons can freely and meaningfully participate in all forms of public
21 discourse, access information and exercise freedom of association, in
22 relation to the formulation and implementation of policies pertaining to the
23 right to adequate food;
- 24 b) Civil society and other stakeholders actively participate in the institutions
25 that oversee the realization of the right to adequate food, as well as in
26 formulating capacity building mechanisms and special measures for
27 disadvantaged groups; and
- 28 c) National public hearings are conducted every two (2) years, at which the
29 government is required to report on the progress made with the
30 implementation of this Act, and progressive realization of the right to
31 adequate food in the country.

1 *Sec. 26. Penal Provisions.* – The penalty of imprisonment of six (6) months and
2 one (1) day to six (6) years, or a fine of not less than One hundred thousand pesos
3 (P100,000.00) but not more than Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00), or
4 both, at the discretion of the court, shall be imposed on any person who causes the
5 starvation or denial of the access to food of any particular individual or group, through
6 the commission of any of the following acts:

- 7 a) Blockade;
- 8 b) Refusal to implement a food-related program;
- 9 c) Discrimination in implementing a food-related program;
- 10 d) Negligence in implementing food-related programs; resulting in death;
- 11 e) Obstructing access to food in time of calamity or war;
- 12 f) Theft, corruption or black marketeering of food being given as humanitarian
13 aid, in times of calamity or war;
- 14 g) Distribution of expired, or unsafe food at a school feeding program or other
15 feeding program, in times of calamity or war;
- 16 h) Contamination of food or water sources, through mining activities aerial
17 spraying of plantations, or any other similar means; and
- 18 i) Other analogous acts.

19 *Provided,* That the penalty is imposable without prejudice to any other criminal,
20 civil or administrative liability under existing laws. If the act committed is food
21 blockade during armed conflict, the penalty imposable shall be without prejudice to
22 the application of Republic Act No. 9851 or the “Philippine Act on Crimes Against
23 International Humanitarian Law, Genocide and other Crimes against Humanity,” and
24 other relevant laws.

25 *Sec. 27. Civil and Administrative Liabilities.* – The government shall ensure the
26 enjoyment of the rights guaranteed in this Act and perform the duties provided for in
27 this Act. Appropriate cases may be filed before the courts to compel compliance with
28 the provisions of this Act. These cases shall be without prejudice to liability for
29 damages and administrative liability that may be incurred.

30 If the violator is a public official or employee, in addition to the penalty of
31 imprisonment or fine or both, the accessory penalty of perpetual absolute
32 disqualification to hold public office shall be imposed.

1 *Sec. 28. Appropriations.* – There shall be an allocation in the annual budget
2 specifically for the purposes in the implementation of the right to adequate food, in
3 accordance with priorities set by the Commission on the Right to Adequate Food. The
4 allocation shall be aimed at the progressive realization of the right to adequate food
5 over the long term.

6 *Sec. 29. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from
7 the effectivity of this Act, the Chairperson of the Commission, shall, in coordination
8 with the CHR, DA, DAR, DSWD, DOH, DTI, DPWH, NEDA, NNC, and NAPC and people’s
9 organizations and human rights nongovernmental organizations, promulgate the
10 necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

11 *Sec. 30. Rationalization of Policies.* – All existing policies, laws, decrees,
12 executive orders, memorandum orders, memorandum circulars, administrative orders,
13 and ordinances shall be rationalized and interpreted in a way that shall guarantee the
14 realization of the right to adequate food as provided for by this Act.

15 Cabinet secretaries and other executive authorities involved in the
16 implementation of the right to adequate food shall report on a regular basis to the
17 Commission on the Right to Adequate Food on legislative and regulatory measures
18 that have been formulated and adopted, and the time frames within which they are
19 envisaged to achieve their objectives in order to achieve zero hunger.

20 *Sec. 31. Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
21 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision or part not otherwise
22 affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

23 *Sec. 32. Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
24 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or
25 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended
26 accordingly.

27 *Sec. 33. Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
28 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,