

Letter to Editor

Philippines President Rodrigo R. Duterte Supports Nutrition

Dear Editor,

No less than the president of the Philippines, His Excellency, Rodrigo Roa- Duterte is a staunch supporter of nutrition. He already signed into law Republic Act 11148 - the First 1,000 Days Law. The law seeks to scale up the national and local health and nutrition programs through a strengthened integrated strategy for maternal, neonatal, child health and nutrition in the **first 1,000 days** of life.

Another executive order, Republic Act 11037 mandates that a national feeding program for undernourished children in public elementary school, kindergarten and day care centers. The feeding program will be implemented in three components:

A. School-based Feeding Program. Undernourished children from Kindergarten to Grade 6 will be given at least one fortified meal for not less than 120 days in a year. This will be carried out by the Department of Education.

B. Supplemental Feeding Program for Day Care Children. Undernourished children from 3 to 5 years of age in day care centers will be given at least one fortified meal for not less than 120 days in a year. This will be implemented by local government units and the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

C. Milk Feeding Program. Fortified meals and cycle menu are to include fresh milk and fresh milk-based food products, to be implemented by the Department of Agriculture, Philippine Carabao Center and the Cooperative Development Agency.

The Republic Act 10862 or the Nutrition and Dietetics Law of 2016 was enacted to regulate and standardize the practice of nutrition and dietetics in the Philippines, with a provision on Medical Nutrition Therapy through the application of Nutrition Care Process for purposes of disease prevention, treatment and management. Administrative Order 2019-0033 was recently signed by the Secretary of Health, Dr. Francisco T. Duque III that shall provide the mandate and direction for public and private hospitals to operationalize and institutionalize the Nutrition Care Process in their respective facilities.

Finally, the Nutritionist-Dietitians' Association of the Philippines (NDAP), the Association of Integrated Nutritionist-Dietitians (AIPO) recognized by the Professional Regulations Commission has 33 chapters nationwide and (two) 2 international chapters- Qatar and United Arab Emirates, NDAP celebrates its 65th Anniversary and Annual Convention on February 26-28, 2020 at the Conrad Hotel, Manila where speakers from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and the Asian Federation of Dietetics Association shall share their expertise on the theme "Frontiers of Nutrition: The Cutting Edge Science in Nutrition and Dietetics.

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President of Nutrition and Dietetic Association of
Philippine