

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL NUTRITION COMMITTEE
Central Visayas

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP OF
THE REGIONAL NUTRITION COMMITTEE
HELD ON 09 JUNE 2011 IN CEBU CITY

RNC Resolution No. 011- 05 (s 2011)

**“REQUESTING THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL TO ENJOIN LOCAL
GOVERNMENT UNITS IN THE REGION TO ENSURE AVAILABILITY OF
IRON FORTIFIED RICE (I-RICE) IN LOCAL MARKETS TO
PROVIDE EASY ACCESS AND INCREASE CONSUMPTION
OF I-RICE IN SUPPORT TO REPUBLIC ACT 8976
OR THE FOOD FORTIFICATION LAW”**

WHEREAS, iron deficiency anemia is the world’s most prevalent form of malnutrition affecting more than 2 billion people or over 30% of the world’s population and this is mainly due to the lack of iron in the diet;

WHEREAS, the results of the latest national nutrition survey of 2008 conducted by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute of the Department of Science and Technology, show that in the Philippines, 4 out of 10 pregnant women (or 43%), 3 out of 10 of lactating women (or 31%), 2 in every 10 children below 13 years old anemic and 2 in every 10 children under five years of age are anemic;

WHEREAS, anemia is so widespread in the country that consequences are seen in terms of increased maternal and child deaths, poor pregnancy outcomes, impaired physical and cognitive development of children and reduced work capacity among adults and as a result, decreased incomes;

WHEREAS, the government response to address iron deficiency anemia includes a) micronutrient supplementation, b) food fortification and c) diet diversification by increasing the consumption of iron-rich foods;

WHEREAS, RA 8976 “An Act Establishing the Philippine Food Fortification Program and For other Purposes” mandates the fortification of staples such as rice with iron, flour, oil, and sugar with vitamin A and provides for voluntary food fortification through the Sangkap Pinoy Seal Program of the Department of Health;

WHEREAS, a milestone in food fortification program was the nationwide relaunching of Iron-fortified Rice or I-Rice by National Food Authority on March 15, 2011;

WHEREAS, the public should be well informed about the advantages of Iron Fortified Rice (I-Rice) such as: prevents anemia, builds healthy red blood cells, boosts body’s immune systems to fight infection, improves mental & physical development, maintains alertness & endurance,

improves productivity, prevents child birth defects & mortality during pregnancy, and good for lactating mothers


NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the above premises, we the members of the Regional Nutrition Committee do hereby concur to request RDC 7 to enjoin all LGUs in the region to ensure availability of iron fortified rice or I-Rice in local markets to improve nutrition status of the vulnerable groups i.e. pregnant, lactating, school age children and the low income families and use I-Rice in all of its supplementary feeding program;

RESOLVED FURTHER, to request the National food Authority to make sure that I-rice is always available in all of its NFA retail outlets;

RESOLVE FURTHERMORE, to request DOLE to enjoin companies providing rice subsidy to employees/workers to give the Iron-Fortified rice;

RESOLVE FINALLY, to request DOH – retained Hospitals and other hospitals in the region to use I-Rice in the meals provided to their in-patients.

Certified Correct:


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RNC Secretary

Attested:


SUSANA K. MADARIETA, MD, MPH
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