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PRESS RELEASE

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CUA URGES LGUS ADDRESS MALNUTRITION

The president of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines called on his fellow local leaders to create programs that address the "serious problem of malnutrition" in the country.

"As the country commemorates National Nutrition Month, I urge my fellow local leaders to tackle the serious problem of malnutrition in the country by creating long-term programs that will support families in our communities," Cua said.

He said that due focus should be placed in addressing the nutrition needs of infants, as the National Nutrition Council (NNC) reports that only 13.8 percent of Filipino children aged six to 23 months have their minimum nutritional requirements met.

Experts say that the stage of early childhood from one to three years is crucial in their development.

The NNC also said that 26.7 percent or about 3.2 million children in the country suffer from malnutrition.

"Our children are long-term inhabitants of our communities. As future stewards we should ensure that they are healthy and able to preserve our heritage for the generations that will come after them," said Cua.

"There is an economic benefit to ensuring that our children are healthy. Healthier citizens mean that government shells out less money for medical services. Instead, we could redirect these funds towards other social services like education," the governor added.

Cua also hoped that a multi-sectoral nutrition project seeking to address malnutrition in the country succeeds and will be eventually implemented across the whole country.

