



**BUILDING AND SUSTAINING POLITICAL  
COMMITMENT FOR NUTRITION ACTION**

# Varied experiences

- 1974, explicit statement that nutrition is a priority of government from the President of the Philippines – resulted to the creation of the National Nutrition Council
- 2005, President of the Philippines adopted accelerated hunger-mitigation as a priority and stressed that related efforts should include the promotion of good nutrition



# Varied experiences

- 1987, Secretary of Social Welfare and Development, then Chair of the NNC, championed the importance of nutrition in development
- 1988, Secretary of Agriculture, new Chair of the NNC called for and invested in community-based action for nutrition



# Varied experiences

- 1992, Secretary of Health brought micronutrient malnutrition on the priority agenda
- 2015, Secretary of Budget and Management rallied key agencies that led to the development of the Early Child Care and Development Intervention Package for the First 1000 Days which has been included in the budget priorities framework for 2016 and 2017, and hopefully way beyond

# Varied experiences

- Some local chief executives, even when the Philippines was not decentralized, also chose nutrition as their banner program or administration priority

# Expressions of political commitment

- Mobilization of resources
  - Funding for nutrition programs and projects
  - Additional human resources – salaried and volunteers
- Exacting performance in nutrition from heads of offices
- Mobilization of other political leaders

# Political circumstances

- Election campaign
- Assumption into office /new administration
- Release of “disturbing” news or data in the mass media
- Presentation of results of researches, surveys, and the like

# Stakeholders integral to nutrition advocacy efforts

- The nutrition technical community -- NNC and its network
- Non-government organizations like the Philippine Coalition of Advocates in Nutrition
- Development partners – e.g. UNICEF, WHO, World Food Programme and Food Agriculture Organization



# Key success factors

No single factor – mix of the person and the environment

- Availability
  - Convincing information and data – nutrition survey results, cost-benefit analysis
  - Costed program packages that political leaders could bite into
  - Technical persons to provide the credence and credibility

# Key success factors

No single factor – mix of the person and the environment

- “Personal” characteristics
  - Easier if a doctor or a health professional, but even lawyer and engineer governors have also bought into nutrition
  - “Newcomer” wishing to make and leave a legacy

# Key success factors

No single factor – mix of the person and the environment

- Country commitments to the international community

# Sustainability

- Institutionalize
  - Legislation
  - Protected item in the budget
  - Strengthen nutrition in key pre-service programs – not only medical profession but also in agriculture, social welfare, public administration
- Document, document, document, document



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**Thank You!**