

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

'04 JUN 30 P3:49

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S E N A T E

S. No. 298

Introduced by Senator S. R. Osmeña III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Most Filipinos take pride in the finding that 92.3% of their countrymen above 10 years old know how to read and write. What this figure seems to hide, however, is the fact that illiterates number four (4) million, and that many of them belong to marginalized sectors of the society, like cultural minorities, which have very little or no access to education and other social services. This means that millions of our countrymen are denied the social mobility and opportunity which education is universally touted to bring, simply because of the failure of our educational system to accommodate the particular circumstances of those who cannot avail of formal education.

There is a need to underscore the importance of non-formal education, i.e., organized educational activity outside the formal school system, especially in the rural areas, based on the principle that education must be anchored in communities and related to the situation of its participants.

The pursuit of a policy to eradicate illiteracy should receive the unqualified and immediate support of the Government. Toward this end, it is proposed that reading centers be established for every barangay in the whole archipelago, starting with those situated in remote, isolated and rural areas. These reading centers should be able to provide the members of the community with a wide array of reading materials, including national and local newspapers. In addition, the reading centers can function as the needed nationwide infrastructure of our non-formal education system. Through the centers, remedial classes on reading for the benefit of communities can take place.

The libraries and reading centers shall be important tools in preventing and addressing the illiteracy problem. In addition, they serve as vital sources of learning and information needs of the community. Through its public service, libraries and reading centers can help bridge the gap between the academically high and poor achievers.

Literacy is a key that unlocks the door to progress. The link between literacy rates and socio-economic development makes it imperative for the country to eradicate illiteracy and raise the levels of literacy of its citizens as an important step towards building a strong republic. It is the duty of the State to support the eradication of illiteracy and the improvement of the levels of literacy

of its citizens in terms of policy, resources and programs geared to literacy developments.

In view of the foregoing, early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.



SERGIO OSMEÑA III
Senator

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RECEIVED BY: Adler

S E N A T E

S. No. 298

Introduced by Senator S. R. Osmeña III

AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7743, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CONGRESSIONAL, CITY, AND
MUNICIPAL LIBRARIES AND BARANGAY READING CENTERS
THROUGHOUT THE PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING THE NECESSARY
FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 6 of Republic Act No. 7743, is hereby
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "Section 6. Functions of the Public Libraries and Barangay
4 Reading Centers

5 The public libraries and barangay reading centers shall have
6 the following functions:

7 a) to make available to the members of the community reading
8 material of wide array, including reading materials prescribed by the
9 Department of Education, and national newspapers of general
10 circulation and others;

11 b) to be used as a venue for audio-visual presentation in the
12 community and other kinds of exhibitions and activities aimed at
13 increasing the literacy rate by government agencies, non-
14 governmental organizations or private entities in the dissemination

1 of information of general interest. IN CASE OF "REMOTE" AND
2 "ISOLATED" BARANGAYS, SUCH ACTIVITIES SHALL INCLUDE
3 THE OFFERING OF REMEDIAL READING CLASSES FOR

4 c) MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY; AND [and]

5 d) to offer such other related services in furtherance of this
6 Act."

7 SEC. 2. Separability Clause. – If any section or provision of this Act is
8 declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions not affected
9 thereby shall continue to be in force and effect.

10 SEC. 3. Repealing Clause. – All decrees, acts, rules and regulations,
11 inconsistent therewith are repealed or modified accordingly.

12 SEC. 4. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
13 after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

14 Approved,