

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



Office of the Secretary

13 JUL -9 1941

SENATE

S.B. No. 690

RECEIVED BY: *ji*

Introduced by Senator LOREN LEGARDA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In a time where our society constantly experiences extra-judicial killings, discrimination based on ethnicity and gender, enforced disappearances, hunger, internal displacement due to armed conflict, sexual abuse, among others, it is a fact of life that many of our countrymen do not know that these acts are serious infringements of their inherent and God-given human rights. Many feel the pain that these violations bring, and yet they do not know its name nor do they know whom to run to for help. They are left in the dark; feeding the vicious cycle of impunity and encroachment of these rights.

This bill thus seeks to make the study of human rights a mandatory part of the curriculum of all educational institutions in the country.

No less than the Constitution, particularly Article XIV, Section 3 (1 & 2) provides:

"(1) All educational institutions shall include the study of the Constitution as part of the curricula.

(2) They shall inculcate patriotism, foster love of humanity, respect for human rights, appreciation of the role of national heroes in the historical development of the country, teach the rights and duties of citizenship, strengthen ethical and spiritual values, develop moral character and personal discipline, encourage critical and creative thinking, broaden scientific and technological knowledge, and promote efficiency."

Moreover, the Constitution empowers and mandates the Commission on Human Rights as provided in Article XIII, Section 18 (5) and (6), to do the following:

"(5) Establish a continuing program of research, education, and information to enhance respect for the primacy of human rights.

(6) Recommend to Congress effective measures to promote human rights and to provide for compensation to victims of violations of human rights, or their families."

The Philippines as a state party to the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights, also has the mandate to publicize such declaration and "to cause it to be disseminated, displayed, read and expounded principally in schools and other education institutions" as given by the United Nations Assembly.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

LOREN LEGARDA
Senator

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AN ACT
REQUIRING MANDATORY TEACHING OF HUMAN RIGHTS
IN ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS

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

1 **SECTION 1.** All public and private schools shall include human rights
2 courses in their curricula. No school shall be established or allowed to operate
3 unless this requirement is complied with.

4
5 **SEC. 2.** The Department of Education, in consultation with the Commission
6 on Human Rights, shall formulate courses on human rights to be taught as separate
7 courses or incorporated in existing subjects now being taught in all levels of
8 education throughout the country.

9
10 **SEC. 3.** The Department of Education, shall also consult and coordinate with
11 the Commission on Human Rights in the writing, printing and publication of
12 textbooks, manuals and other reading materials to be used in the human rights
13 courses.

14
15 **SEC. 4.** This Act shall be implemented initially within the framework of the
16 budget of the Department of Education, for the year it is enacted into law. As far as
17 practicable, the funds required therefor shall be drawn from its appropriations for
18 policy formulation, program planning, standards development and instructional
19 materials development.

20
21 Thereafter, such amounts as may be necessary for the implementation of this

1 Act shall be included in the budget of the Department of Education, in the annual
2 General Appropriations Act.

3

4 **SEC. 5.** The Department of Education, in consultation with the Commission
5 on Human Rights, shall, within six (6) months from the approval of this Act, prepare
6 the implementing rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this
7 Act.

8

9 **SEC. 6.** This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its publication in
10 at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

11

12 Approved,