

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



14 JAN 15 P5 56

SENATE

Senate Bill No. 2061

RECEIVED BY. *Ju*

Introduced by **SENATOR JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is the policy of the State to promote and advance the right of every Filipino to quality education and to make such education accessible to all.

Sadly though, there are still a lot of Filipino youths that are deprived of an effective means to education that can pragmatically guide them to be responsible partners of the State in nation building. This is evident despite the fact that the government has been vigorously instituting reforms to improve the quality of our educational system.

The problem lies mainly on the reality that most of our public schools, which cater primarily to the marginalized sectors of our society, lack the necessary facilities to create an atmosphere conducive to learning. Facilities that can make the students learn effectively and comfortably.

Considering the rapidly increasing student population, one issue that needs to be addressed with foremost attention is the inadequacy of school buildings in public schools, especially in the countryside. The current aggregate of school buildings is so inadequate that a large number of students have to make do with the shade of a tree as a classroom. And some teachers even conduct classes in hallways or stairways of schools.

Only the establishment of a school building in every barangay, which this bill proposes, can remedy this pitiful situation. The enactment of this measure will pave the way for the institutionalization of a more potent educational system that can meet the demands of a surging student population and the changing needs of the time. Further, this will positively shift the focus of our

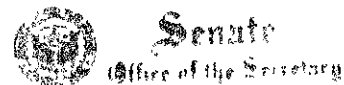
education program to the grassroots level where greater attention is presently needed.

Since the strengthening of basic education as a means of empowering the youth and helping them fulfill their roles as future leaders of our nation is one of the major thrusts of the present administration, thus, immediate approval of this measure is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Ejercito', with a horizontal line extending to the left.

JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO

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



74 JAN 15 P5 56

SENATE
Senate Bill No. 2061

RECEIVED BY. *Jr*

Introduced by **SENATOR JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO**

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SCHOOL BUILDING IN EVERY BARANGAY IN THE PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "*Barangay School Building Act*".

SECTION 2. It is hereby declared a policy of the State to promote and advance the right of every Filipino to education. The State recognizes the people's need for a quality, affordable and adequate educational system as a tool in nation building.

SECTION 3. The Department of Education (DepEd) is hereby mandated to be the lead agency in the implementation of this Act, to formulate a guideline of requirements and to structure a timetable to ensure that each and every barangay in the Philippines will have its school building by the end of 2016. Likewise, the Department is hereby obligated to achieve a twenty-five - percent (25%) completion rate each year until 2016.

SECTION 4. In line with this, the Department of Education shall closely coordinate with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) for the funding requirements and other pertinent matters needed in the proper implementation of this Act.

SECTION 5. The Department of Education and the Department of Public Works and Highways shall closely coordinate with the Local Government Units (LGU) of each barangay with regard to the location of the land where the school building is proposed to be established.

The school building can be annexed to an existing school or be an entirely new school as may be agreed upon, after the consultations with barangay and community leaders, by the Department of Education and the local Government Unit Concerned.

SECTION 6. The land where the proposed school building is to be constructed must be owned by the government. In the case that the land is a private property, the Department of Education can purchase the property in part or in whole after coordination with all concerned agencies.

SECTION 7. The appropriations necessary for the implementation of this Act for the year 2014 shall be sourced from the unobligated budget allocations of the Department of Education, Department of Public Works and Highways and the Department of Budget and Management under the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such amount as necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after completion of its publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,