

13th CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
FIRST REGULAR SESSION)

'04 JUL -6 AM 11:42

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S. BILL NO. 1380

INTRODUCED BY HONORABLE RALPH G. RECTO

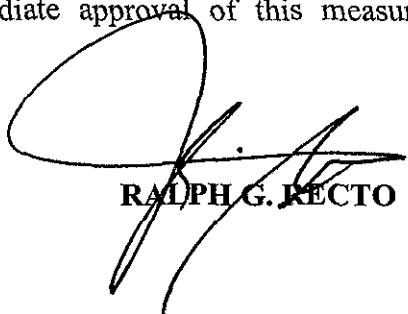
EXPLANATORY NOTE

In line with the policy of the State to give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development, this bill seeks to establish the Books for the Barrios Program to promote and encourage accessibility of education to the countryside.

The lack of textbooks and inaccessibility of formal training institutions contribute largely to the weak educational system prevalent in the countryside. Young minds in the barrios are not only confronted with miniscule resources but also with the danger of a diminishing quality of education.

We must give recognition to the fact that the majority of the Filipino population belongs to the youth sector. At a time when the country needs new leaders to steer the country out of its economic slump, giving primary attention to the youth sector is definitely necessary.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this measure is earnestly recommended.



RALPH G. RECTO

13TH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

'04 JUL -6 A11 :42

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: _____

S. BILL NO. 1380

Introduced by SENATOR RALPH G. RECTO

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE BOOKS FOR THE BARRIOS PROGRAM, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

1 SECTION 1. *Title.* - This Act shall be known as the Books For the
2 Barrios Act of 2004.

3 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the
4 State to give the Filipino youth, particularly in remote areas, the chance for upward
5 mobility through education not only by listening but also by reading. Towards this end,
6 all public schools and libraries in remote barangays shall be provided with books under
7 the Books for the Barrios Program.

8 SEC. 3. *Books for the Barrios' Program.*- There shall be established,
9 under the Department of Education, (Dep Ed.), the Books for the Barrios Program,
10 hereinafter referred to as the Program.

11 For this purpose, the Dep Ed is hereby authorized to create an office that will take charge
12 of the Program, which shall have the following functions:

13

14 a.) Prepare a list of all public schools and libraries throughout the
15 country and regularly update the same;

16 b.) Formulate guideline and standards for availment of the benefits
17 under the Program;

- 1 c.) Accept and issue receipts for donations of books, magazines and
2 other educational materials for distribution to qualified schools and
3 libraries;
- 4 d.) Designate non-government organizations which may solicit book
5 donations, or distribute books and other educational materials
6 under its supervision;
- 7 e.) Make an inventory every three (3) months of all the books and
8 other educational materials;
- 9 f.) Make an inventory every three (3) months of all the books and
10 other educational materials under its supervision; and
- 11 g.) Perform such other functions as may be necessary for the effective
12 implementation of the Program.
- 13

14 **SEC. 4. *Scope and Coverage of the Program.*** - All elementary and
15 secondary public schools, and public libraries in remote barangays throughout the
16 country shall be entitled to the benefits offered by the Program : *Provided*, That public
17 schools shall be required to establish their own libraries: *Provided*, further, That private
18 schools and libraries in remote barangays may avail of the benefits under the Program
19 subject to the guidelines and standards as maybe prescribed by the Department of
20 Education.

21

22 **SEC. 5. *Mechanics of the Program.*** -

23

- 24 a.) The Dep Ed shall introduce the Program through the different
25 government offices, agencies and institutions, the state colleges
26 and universities, non-government organizations and private
27 establishments which shall solicit from their officials, employees
28 and members donation of used books, magazines and other
29 educational materials;

- 1 b.) The Dep Ed may also solicit books from foreign sources;
- 2 c.) At the end of every school year, all graduates from all levels shall
- 3 be encouraged to donate their books and other educational
- 4 materials to the Program;
- 5 d.) Non-government organizations as may be designated by the Dep
- 6 Ed shall be authorized to solicit and distribute book donations in
- 7 accordance with the guidelines as may be formulated by the Dep
- 8 Ed: Provided, That reports shall be submitted to the Department of
- 9 Education as to the manner and number of books received and
- 10 distributed;
- 11 e.) The books and educational materials received shall be inventoried
- 12 and distributed to qualified schools and libraries as may be
- 13 determined by the Dep Ed in accordance with the guidelines as
- 14 may be formulated for the Program.

15

16 **SEC. 6. *Annual Report.*** - The Dep Ed shall submit an annual report to

17 the President of the Philippines and the Congress on the implementation of the Program

18 which shall include the number of books and other educational materials solicited and

19 distributed and the beneficiaries thereof.

20 **SEC. 7. *Appropriations.*** - The Secretary of the Dep Ed shall immediately

21 include in its program and issue such rules and regulations to implement the provisions of

22 this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations

23 Act.

24 **SEC. 8 *Repealing Clause*** - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or

25 parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

26 **SEC. 9. *Effectivity*** - This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

27 Approved,