



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*Second Regular Session* )

23 JUL 17 P2:40

**SENATE**  
**S. No. 2313**

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator MARK A. VILLAR

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**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING THE EBOOKS FOR THE BARANGAY PROGRAM, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREOF**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In this digital age, access to information and knowledge has become crucial to the success of any individual, community, and nation. The ability to acquire and utilize information empowers citizens to become informed decision-makers, responsible contributors to their communities, and effective leaders in the global economy.

The Philippines, with its over 100 million people and more than 42,000 barangays, faces significant challenges in terms of providing equitable access to educational resources, especially in rural and marginalized communities. Limited physical library infrastructures, inadequate reading materials, and a lack of access to up-to-date digital learning tools exacerbate the situation.

In response to these challenges, this measure aims to establish and launch a progressive initiative designed to bridge the digital divide, promote digital literacy, and improve access to quality educational resources for all Filipinos.


The Ebooks for the Barangay Program represents a transformative step in democratizing access to educational resources, fostering digital literacy, and empowering Filipinos across the archipelago.

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

**MARK A. VILLAR**

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title* - This act shall be known as the "Ebooks for the Barangay  
2 Program Act of 2023".

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy*. - It is hereby declared policy of the State to ensure  
4 that quality educational materials are accessible to all, respecting the right of all citizens  
5 to education and to promote lifelong learning.

6 Sec. 3. *Establishment of the Ebooks for the Barangay Program*. - There is hereby  
7 established a nationwide program to be known as the "Ebooks for the Barangay Program"  
8 under the Department of Education (DepEd). This program aims to provide each  
9 barangay with access to free and curated digital learning resources that support the  
10 academic needs of its residents.

11 Sec. 4. *Program Components*. - The Ebooks for the Barangay Program shall include  
12 the following components:

13 a) Digital library platform - This shall provide a secure and organized database of  
14 digital learning resources, including e-books, video lectures, simulations, and other

1 relevant materials, in various fields of study and in languages suitable for the local  
2 community.

3 b) Devices distribution - The program shall facilitate the provision of electronic  
4 devices, such as tablets or e-readers, to ensure access to digital library resources  
5 for all barangays, particularly in areas with limited internet access.

6 c) Capacity building - DepEd shall coordinate workshops and training programs to  
7 enhance digital literacy among barangay residents and develop skills in using e-  
8 resources.

9 d) Monitoring and evaluation - Periodic assessment and data collection shall be  
10 carried out to measure the program's success and inform its continuous  
11 improvement.

12 *Sec. 5. Funding.* - The necessary funding for the implementation of this Act shall  
13 be sourced from the DepEd's share in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

14 *Sec. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The DepEd, in coordination with  
15 pertinent government instrumentalities, shall develop the implementing rules and  
16 regulations, within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act.

17 *Sec. 7. Separability Clause.* - Any portion or provisions of this Act that may be  
18 declared unconstitutional or invalid and shall not have the effect of nullifying other  
19 portions or provisions hereof as long as such remaining portions or provisions can still  
20 subsist and be given effect in their entirety.

21 *Sec. 8. Repealing Clause.* - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders,  
22 memoranda, circulars, and other issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with  
23 the Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

24 *Sec. 9. Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall be take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
25 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*