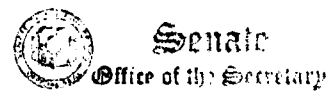
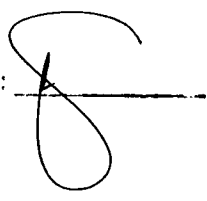


**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Second Regular Session**



23 SEP 27 P6:15

**SENATE
S.B. No. 2457**

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by SENATOR WIN GATCHALIAN

**AN ACT
REDEFINING THE APPLICATION OF THE MOTHER TONGUE AS MEDIUM
OF INSTRUCTION FROM KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 3, AMENDING FOR
THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 4 AND 5 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10533,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "ENHANCED BASIC EDUCATION ACT OF
2013"**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The appropriateness of using the Mother Tongue (MT) as medium of instruction (MOI) in multilingual contexts is neither supported by theory nor evidence. Yet, Republic Act (RA) No. 10533 or the "Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013" mandated the implementation of the Mother Tongue-Based Multilingual Education (MTB-MLE) curriculum from Kindergarten to Grade 3.

The Philippines is classified as a highly multilingual society by various language mapping data. Language data from the 2020 Census of Population and Housing shows that there are about 245 reported languages in the country. Currently, the Department of Education (DepEd) officially covers only 19 languages in implementing MTB-MLE, accounting for a measly 8% of the total languages reported in the census. Further analysis also shows that some of the widely spoken languages such as Boholano, Masbateño, and

Kankanaey are not covered by the 19 languages used by the DepEd in the implementation of MTB-MLE.

School-level data from different parts of the country further show the linguistic diversity in schools. For example, language mapping data from Kalinga detected 22 languages spoken by the learner population. In Marahan West Elementary School, a small school in the remote areas of Davao City, there were 9 languages detected in the school with only 238 Key Stage 1 learners.

DepEd has issued Department Orders prescribing the use of the lingua franca as MOI in areas where there are three or more MTs (multilingual classrooms). However, the 1953 UNESCO study, the same basis used in adopting MTB-MLE in RA 10533, itself identified the adoption of the lingua franca as MOI as one of the grounds for the abandonment of the use of the MT as MOI. The other grounds identified by the UNESCO include: (1) shortage of educational materials; (2) multiplicity of languages in a locality; (3) multiplicity of languages in a country; and (4) shortage of trained teachers.

In a 2019 study conducted by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies, its findings yielded that only 9% of the surveyed schools complied with the 4-minima requirements for good implementation of the MTB-MLE where schools are expected to: (1) write big books on language, literature and culture; (2) document the orthography of the language; (3) document the grammar of language; and (4) write a dictionary of the language.

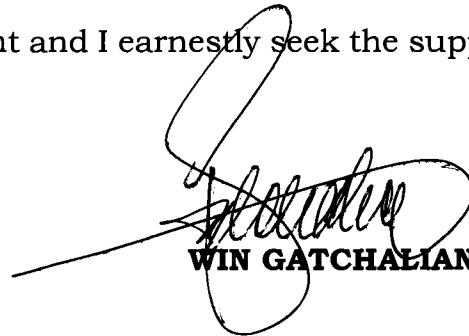
These findings were corroborated by the Committee on Basic Education's Key Stage 1 class observations and focus group discussions in Pangasinan, Cebu, Davao and Muntinlupa City.

Finally, to verify these researches and findings on the ground, the Committee has conducted four public hearings on Proposed Senate

Resolution No. 5¹, House Bill No. 6717², and my Privilege Speech on the “Observations on the Implementation of the Mother Tongue-Based Multilingual Education Program - Theory vs. Implementation” delivered on May 31, 2023. All MT studies presented during these public hearings were conducted in monolingual settings. The other qualitative accounts that were presented to the Committee advocate the use of the MT in linguistically homogenous settings such as rural communities and communities of ethnolinguistic minorities.

Thus, I propose this legislation to remedy and seek the faithful implementation of MTB-MLE under RA 10533 by redefining its application to monolingual classes from Kindergarten to Grade 3. This will result in reverting to Section 7, Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution on the MOI (“xxx Filipino and, until otherwise provided by law, English. xxx”) to be used in Key Stage 1. If necessary, the regional languages, or any of the Filipino languages for that matter, “shall serve as auxiliary media of instruction” – a flexible approach to instruction as provided under the Constitution itself.

The passage of this bill is urgent and I earnestly seek the support of my colleagues in this Congress.



WIN GATCHALIAN

¹ RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATUS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE K TO 12 LAW FOR THE PURPOSE OF CRAFTING POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS AND INITIATING COMPLEMENTARY AND AMENDATORY LEGISLATION TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE LAW AND ENSURE ITS EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT INTEGRATION INTO THE PHILIPPINE BASIC EDUCATION SYSTEM TO PROVIDE QUALITY EDUCATION AND ACHIEVE GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS (by Sen. Win Gatchalian)

² AN ACT SUSPENDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE USE OF MOTHER TONGUE AS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION FOR KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 3 PROVIDED UNDER SECTION 4 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10533, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ENHANCED BASIC EDUCATION ACT OF 2013 (by Rep. Romulo, et al.)



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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AN ACT
REDEFINING THE APPLICATION OF THE MOTHER TONGUE AS MEDIUM
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THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 4 AND 5 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10533,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "ENHANCED BASIC EDUCATION ACT OF
2013"

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

1 Section 1. *Redefining the Application of the Mother Tongue as Medium of*
2 *Instruction.* – The application of the Mother Tongue as medium of instruction
3 from kindergarten to the first three (3) years of elementary education under
4 Section 4 of Republic Act (R.A.) No. 10533, otherwise known as "An Act
5 Enhancing the Philippine Basic Education System by Strengthening its
6 Curriculum and Increasing the Number of Years for Basic Education,
7 Appropriating Funds Therefor and for Other Purposes", is hereby redefined.
8 It shall be used as medium of instruction in monolingual classes from
9 kindergarten to grade three.

10 Except for these monolingual classes, the delivery of basic education
11 shall continue to use the official languages of the Philippines under Article
12 XIV, Section VII of the 1987 Constitution which are Filipino and, until

1 otherwise provided by law, English. The regional languages shall serve as
2 auxiliary media of instruction.

3
4 *Sec. 2. The Mother Tongue-Based Multilingual Education (MTB-MLE) in*
5 *Monolingual Classes; Monolingual Classes and Language Mapping.* – The
6 principles and framework of MTB-MLE as embodied under Sec. 5 (f) of R.A.
7 No. 10533 shall continue to be adhered to in monolingual classes. For
8 purposes of this Act, a monolingual class shall refer to a group of learners
9 who speak the same mother tongue and are enrolled in the same grade level
10 in a given school year. The Department of Education (DepEd) shall develop a
11 language mapping policy and implement a language mapping framework to
12 properly identify and classify learners based on their mother tongue in order
13 to systematically determine the existence of monolingual classes per school
14 year.

15
16 *Sec. 3. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* – Within ninety (90)
17 days from the effectivity of this Act, the DepEd, the Komisyon sa Wikang
18 Filipino, and other education stakeholders shall issue the rules and
19 regulations implementing its provisions. The IRR issued pursuant to this
20 section shall take effect thirty (30) days after its publication in a newspaper
21 of general circulation.

22
23 *Sec. 4. Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held invalid
24 or unconstitutional, the other provisions not so declared shall remain in force
25 and effect.

26
27 *Sec. 5. Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, presidential
28 decrees, administrative orders, rules and regulations, issuances, or parts
29 thereof contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
30 repealed or amended accordingly.

1 Sec. 6. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
2 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,