

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

'16 JUL 19 AIO:30

SENATE

S.B. NO. 435

RECEIVED BY: *J.*

Introduced by SENATOR LOREN LEGARDA

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

Explanatory Note

In a time where our society constantly experiences extrajudicial 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 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.



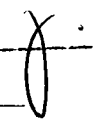
LOREN LEGARDA
Senator

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*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.
3
- 4 **SEC. 2.** The Department of Education (DepEd), in consultation with the
5 Commission on Human Rights (CHR), shall formulate courses on human
6 rights to be taught as separate courses or incorporated in existing subjects
7 now being taught in all levels of education throughout the country.
8
- 9 **SEC. 3.** The DepEd, shall also consult and coordinate with the CHR in the
10 writing, printing and publication of textbooks, manuals and other reading
11 materials to be used in the human rights courses.
12
- 13 **SEC. 4.** This Act shall be implemented initially within the framework of the
14 budget of the DepEd, for the year it is enacted into law. As far as
15 practicable, the funds required therefore shall be drawn from its
16 appropriations for policy formulation, program planning, standards
17 development and instructional materials development. Thereafter, such
18 amounts as may be necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be
19 included in the budget of the DepEd, in the annual General Appropriations
20 Act.
21
- 22 **SEC. 5.** The DepEd, in consultation with the Commission on Human
23 Rights, shall, within six (6) months from the approval of this Act, prepare
24 the implementing rules and regulations necessary to carry out the
25 provisions of this Act.
26
- 27 **SEC. 6.** This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its publication
28 in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.
29

30 Approved,