

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session* )



**SENATE**

S. No. 78

'19 JUL -1 P2 :17

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Introduced by **SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.**

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

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Article XIV Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution provides that, "The State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all."

One basic component of education is reading, which is a fundamental skill that will determine the literacy of an individual. The importance of developing the youth's reading ability must be emphasized in our goal of improving their functional literacy skills.

The Education for All Global Monitoring Report of UNESCO in 2006 defined "functional literacy" as the level of literacy which includes not only reading, writing and comprehension but also numeracy skills that would help people cope with the daily demands of life. The Philippines rated 90.3% in the 2013 Functional Literacy, Education and Mass Media Survey (FLEMMS), a remarkable improvement from 86.4% in 2008 and 84.1% in 2003.

While the national rating in the said survey has consistently improved, a study conducted by a non-governmental organization revealed that such improvement is not true in the community level where majority of students are not able to read with comprehension by the time they finish primary education.

No less than the Department of Education official stated that some schools did not have enough books for students this school year 2019-2020. He said that nobody participated in the bidding to print the manuscript because of the change in curriculum.

There are various organizations that have already dedicated efforts and resources to address this issue but there is more to be done. The government has to step in and proactive measures have to be implemented.

This bill proposes for the establishment of the Books for the Barrios Program which shall be under the Department of Education. It aims to distribute books and other educational materials to primary and secondary public schools as well as to public libraries in remote barangays. The said Program aims to provide support and strengthen the efforts of the government in providing quality education to our youth.

In this light, the immediate passage of this bill is highly recommended.

  
**RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.**

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Senate  
Office of the Secretary

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**AN ACT  
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*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representative of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

1 Section 1. *Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "*Books for the Barrios Act of*  
2 *2019*".

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

9  
10 Sec. 3. *Books for the Barrios Program.* - There shall be established, under the  
11 Department of Education (DepEd), the Books for the Barrios Program, hereinafter  
12 referred to as the Program.

13



1 For this purpose, the DepEd is hereby authorized to create an office that will  
2 take charge of the Program, which shall have the following functions:

- 3
- 4 a) Prepare a list of all public schools and libraries throughout the country  
5 and regularly update the same;
- 6
- 7 b) Formulate guidelines and standards for availment of the benefits under  
8 the Program;
- 9
- 10 c) Accept and issue receipts or donations of books, magazines and other  
11 educational materials for distribution to qualified schools and libraries;
- 12
- 13 d) Designate non-government organizations which may solicit book  
14 donations, or distribute books and other educational materials under its  
15 supervision;
- 16
- 17 e) Make an inventory every three (3) months of all the books and other  
18 educational materials under its supervision; and,
- 19
- 20 f) Perform such other functions as may be necessary for the effective  
21 implementation of the Program.
- 22

23 *Sec. 4. Scope and Coverage of the Program.* – All elementary and secondary  
24 public schools, and public libraries in remote barangays throughout the country shall  
25 be entitled to the benefits offered by the Program: *Provided,* That public schools  
26 shall be required to establish their own libraries: *Provided, further,* That private  
27 schools and libraries in remote barangays may avail of the benefits under the  
28 Program subject to the guidelines and standards as may be prescribed by the  
29 Department of Education.

1            *Sec. 5. Mechanism of the Program. –*

- 2
- 3            a) The DepEd shall introduce the Program through the different
- 4                        government offices, agencies and institutions, the state colleges and
- 5                        universities, non-government organizations and private establishments
- 6                        which shall solicit from their officials, employees and members
- 7                        donation of used books, magazines and other educational materials;
- 8
- 9            b) The DepEd may also solicit books from foreign sources;
- 10
- 11           c) At the end of every school year, all students who finished from all
- 12                        levels shall be encouraged to donate their books and other educational
- 13                        materials to the Program;
- 14
- 15           d) Non-governmental organizations as may be designated by the DepEd
- 16                        shall be authorized to solicit and distribute book donations in
- 17                        accordance with the guidelines as may be formulated by the DepEd:
- 18                        *Provided, That* reports shall be submitted to the DepEd as to the
- 19                        manner and number of books received and distributed;
- 20
- 21           e) The books and educational materials received shall be inventoried and
- 22                        distributed to qualified schools and libraries as may be determined by
- 23                        the DepEd in accordance with the guidelines as may be formulated for
- 24                        the Program.
- 25

26            *Sec. 6. Annual Report. –* The Department of Education shall submit to the

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

28            which shall include, among others, the number of books and other educational

1 materials solicited and distributed, the classification of and subjects covered by the  
2 said books, and the beneficiaries thereof.

3  
4       *Sec. 7. Appropriations.* – The Secretary of the Department of Education shall  
5 immediately include in its program and issue such rules and regulations to  
6 implement the provisions of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the  
7 annual General Appropriations Act.

8  
9       *Sec. 8. Separability Clause.* – If any part, section or provision of this Act is  
10 held invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in  
11 full force and effect.

12  
13       *Sec. 9. Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or  
14 parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

15  
16       *Sec. 10. Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

17  
18       Approved,