

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

7 JUN 30 P 1:47

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

Senate Bill No. 97

INTRODUCED BY HON. MANNY VILLAR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish the "Books For the Barrios Program" to give the Filipino youth, particularly those living in remote barangays, the chance for upward mobility through education not only by listening but also by reading.

The compulsory education of children is the government's responsibility. As a Constitutional mandate, the government has always given priority to education. But the necessity of having books as a tool for better education seems to have been overlooked. Most public elementary and secondary schools in remote barangays do not have a library or even a small reading area in the school premises for the simple reason that there are very few books or any reading material available.

Education is not only about learning how to read and write, it should be a continuous infusion of knowledge and information. Only by providing the environment for a steady process of intellectual growth gained through reading can the government truly achieve the objective of an effective education.

Approval of this bill is earnestly urged.


MANNY VILLAR

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

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

1 SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Books for the Barrios Act.”

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

7 SEC. 3. *Books for the Barrios Program.* – There shall be established under the
8 Department of Education (DepEd), the Books for the Barrios Program, hereinafter
9 referred to as the Program. For this purpose, the instructional materials council
10 secretariat of the DepEd shall be in-charged of the program and shall have the
11 following additional functions:

12 (a) Prepare a list of all public schools and libraries throughout the country and
13 regularly update the same;

14 (b) Formulate guidelines and standards for availment of the benefits under the
15 Program;

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

9 SEC. 4. *Scope and Coverage of the Program.* – All elementary and secondary
10 public schools and public libraries in remote barangays throughout the country shall be
11 entitled to the benefits offered by the Program: *Provided,* That public schools shall be
12 required to establish their own libraries: *Provided, further,* That private schools and
13 libraries in remote barangays may avail of the benefits under the Program subject to the
14 guidelines and standards as may be prescribed by the DepEd.

15 SEC. 5. *Mechanics of the Program.* – (a) The DepEd shall introduce the Program
16 through the different government offices, agencies and institutions, the state colleges
17 and universities, non-government organizations and private establishments which shall
18 solicit from their officials, employees and members donation of used books, magazines
19 and other educational materials;

20 (b) The DepEd may also solicit books from foreign sources;

21 (c) At the end of every school year, all graduates from all levels shall be
22 encouraged to donate their books and other educational materials to the
23 Program;

24 (d) Non-government organizations as may be designated by the DepEd shall be
25 authorized to solicit and distribute book donations in accordance with the
26 guidelines as may be formulated by the DepEd: *Provided,* That reports shall
27 be submitted to the DepEd as to the manner and number of books received
28 and distributed; and

1 (e) The books and educational materials received shall be inventoried and
2 distributed to qualified schools and libraries as may be determined by the
3 DepEd in accordance with the guidelines as may be formulated for the
4 Program;

5 SEC. 6. *Annual Report.* – The DepEd shall submit an annual report to the President
6 of the Philippines and the Congress on the implementation of the Program which shall
7 include the number of books and other educational materials solicited and distributed
8 and the beneficiaries thereof.

9 SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The DepEd shall issue the
10 necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

11 SEC. 8. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to initially implement the Program
12 shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the DepEd. Thereafter,
13 such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of the Books for the
14 Barrios Program shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

15 SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or
16 parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

17 SEC. 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

18 Approved,