

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF THE PHILIPPINES  
First Regular Session

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

7 JUL -2 P2:27

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Senate Bill No. 455

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INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Since the 1970s, a bilingual Education Policy has been in force with English as the medium of instruction in science and mathematics subjects and Filipino as the medium of instruction for all other subjects. Also, teaching science and mathematics in English is considered as a response to the need to "avail of the advantage of scientific, commercial and cultural links of an international language and the need to further develop the national language as an instrument of national unity and integration." Note that the revised Bilingual Education Policy of 1987 provided for the maintenance of English as an international language of the Philippines and the further enhancement of the use of English and Filipino in the educational system.

The report of the Presidential Commission to Survey Philippine Education supports the above allegation.

With the onset of the new millennium, it is high time we re-examine as well as re-asset the Filipino language in functional library in order to strengthen the learning process inside the classroom.

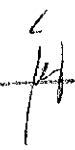
In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA  
Senator

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
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**AN ACT**  
**STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF THE VERNACULAR AND FILIPINO IN**  
**FUNCTIONAL LITERACY AND PROVIDING GUIDELINES FOR ITS**  
**CLASSROOM USE**

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

**SECTION 1.** It is hereby declared the policy of the State to strengthen, accelerate and enrich Filipino as the national language of the Philippines. In pursuance of such policy, Filipino shall be further developed and enriched on the basis of existing Philippine languages such that by the year 2009, Filipino shall be the language of instruction in the educational system.

**SEC 2. Definition of Terms.** Filipino refers to the national language of the Philippines.

Vernacular refers to the dominant regional language.

Auxiliary language of instruction refers to a language which supports the language of instruction.

**SEC 3.** In Grades One, Two, Three of the elementary level, the vernacular shall be the language of instruction, for all subjects with Filipino as a separate subject and the auxiliary language of instruction. Filipino shall be taught as a separate subject until the fourth year of secondary education.

**SEC 4.** In Grade Three, English as foreign language shall be introduced as a separate subject and shall continue to be taught as a separate subject until the fourth year of secondary education.

**SEC 5.** In Grade, Four, Filipino shall be the language of instruction and shall continue to be the language of instruction for all subjects, except English, until the fourth year of education.

**SEC 6.** All textbooks, reading and teaching materials for the elementary level written in the Vernacular and Filipino shall be prepared in accordance with

the guidelines and standards for linguistic forms and expressions proposed by the Commission on the Filipino Language.

**SEC 7.** The Department of Education shall promulgate such rules and regulations to carry out effectively the provisions of this Act.

**SEC 8.** All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts hereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SEC 9.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

*Approved,*