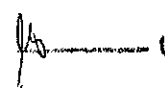


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

} 7 JUL -3 P6:25
}
}

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S. No. 911

Introduced by SENATOR EDGARDO J. ANGARA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The shortage in the number of public school buildings to accommodate the increasing number of enrollees in our public schools, associated with the deteriorating quality of our education system, has always been a perennial problem.

To date, the national classroom - student ratio for elementary and secondary public schools is still far from the ideal ratio of 1:30, due largely to the free education program, which has not been met by a corresponding increase in the number of classrooms.


In her various policy pronouncements, President Gloria Arroyo has repeatedly promoted her "education for all" program and despite of the yearly increases in the budget of the education sector, the impact of public school enrolment on basic schooling resources is immense amounting to as much as P11.30 Billion worth of government expenditures and investments for this year only.

Note that out of the P11.30 Billion funding requirements to eliminate backlog in the education system, almost 40% or an amount equivalent to P4.61 Billion will go to classroom gap alone – under a double-shift scenario at 1:50 per shift. The said amount will just be enough to cover the artificial shortage of roughly 6,000 classrooms.

As per DepEd records, the total nationwide classroom shortage is 41,197 – at current prices, the government will be in need of at least P16 Billion of additional funding to be able to crack the classroom shortage.

Furthermore, DepEd reported that 20% of the country's classrooms have no proper ventilation, 27% have no lighting, 55% do not have electricity, and 25% have no ceilings. It also added that in 2005, 20% of elementary and secondary schools did not have science laboratories.

The bill seeks to create a comprehensive program which will address the problem of classroom shortage. A salient feature of this bill is the provision of build-operate-transfer, build-lease-transfer, build-transfer, rehabilitate-operate-transfer, and other contractual arrangements that will allow the use of both government and private funds to finance the construction of needed school buildings, and the creation of an inter-agency



committee to formulate and ensure the effective implementation of the program by the Department of Education, Culture and Sports. The program also provide for the integration of all the necessary information for the effective monitoring and maintenance of existing school buildings.

Reducing the shortage in classrooms will not automatically reduce the class size to the ideal 25, however. Today, the actual class size in public schools is 60 to 110. This pales in comparison to Thailand (18), Malaysia (19), China (24), Taiwan (14), and Indonesia (22).

It is hoped that with the passage of this bill, class sizes will be reduced to a manageable and ideal proportion level for a more conductive learning environment and thus result in the improvement of the quality of our education.

Towards this end, I urge my colleagues in the Chamber to immediately pass this bill.


EDGARDO J. ANGARA
Senator

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

} 7 JUL -3 P6:25
}
}

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: _____

S. B. No. 911

Introduced by SENATOR EDGARDO J. ANGARA

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PROGRAM FOR THE ACQUISITION OF
SCHOOL SITES AND THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE,
REHABILITATION, AND REPAIR OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS IN THE
PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS
NATIONWIDE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “*School*
2 *Building Program Act of 2007.*”

3
4 **SECTION. 2. *School Building Program Objectives.*** – There shall
5 be established a comprehensive and continuing School Building Program,
6 hereinafter referred to as the “Program”, which shall have the following
7 objectives:

- 8 1. To provide a system for an accurate inventory of all existing public
9 primary and secondary school buildings, with proper indications as
10 to its location, size, capacity, condition, and compliance with basic
11 building safety requirements;
- 12 2. To provide appropriate studies for determining the yearly school
13 building requirements base on projected increases in enrollment
14 and other appropriate indicators;

- 1 3. To provide for the effective monitoring and supervision of all school
2 building facilities with respect to its proper and adequate
3 maintenance, replacement, rehabilitation and repair;
- 4 4. To provide a comprehensive plan for the acquisition and/or
5 construction and adequate school sites, buildings and facilities for
6 all public elementary and secondary schools nationwide, with the
7 aim of reducing the classroom-students ratio to an ideal proportion
8 within a period of five (5) years upon approval of this Act;
- 9 5. To provide the mechanism for the selection of public schools to
10 prioritize in the school-building projects nationwide;
- 11 6. To provide a specific time schedule for the construction of school
12 buildings which shall be strictly followed so as to prevent
13 unnecessary delays and backlogs;
- 14 7. To provide for necessary mechanisms which will facilitate a closer
15 coordination between the Department of Budget and Management
16 (DBM), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH),
17 Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), and
18 Department of Education (DepEd) to expedite the implementation
19 of the Program;
- 20 8. To formulate guidelines for the bidding procedures that will be used
21 for the school building program including that of the contractual
22 arrangement schemes; and
- 23 9. To provide for a definite work and financial schedule for the
24 construction, operation and maintenance of school buildings under
25 any of the contractual arrangement schemes.

26

1 **SECTION. 3. *Inter-Agency Committee.*** – To formulate and ensure
2 the effective implementation of the program, there is hereby created an inter-
3 agency committee, to be headed by the Secretary of the Department of
4 Education (DepEd) as Chairperson, and the respective Secretaries of the
5 Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Budget
6 and Management (DBM), and the Department of Interior and Local
7 Government (DILG), as members. The committee shall within one (1) year
8 from the approval of this Act, submit to the Committee on Education of both
9 houses of Congress and every year thereafter, the comprehensive school-
10 building program herein established.

11
12 **SECTION. 4. *Implementation of the Program.*** – Consistent with
13 the provisions of Republic Act No. 7880, otherwise known as the “Fair and
14 Equitable Access to Education Act,” the committee shall determine and
15 supervise the acquisition and/or construction of priority school building
16 projects to be implemented by the DepEd as provided in the Program. The
17 DepEd is hereby authorized to enter into contracts with duly pre-qualified
18 private contractors for the design, financing, construction, maintenance and
19 other aspects of school buildings through the build-operate and transfer,
20 build and transfer, build-lease and transfer, rehabilitate-operate and transfer
21 and such other contractual arrangement schemes as provided under the
22 Build – Operate and Transfer Law (Republic Act No. 6957).

23
24 **SECTION. 5. *Release of Maintenance and Other Operating***
25 ***Expenditures.*** – For the purpose of ensuring compliance of such contractual
26 arrangement as may hereinafter be entered, the appropriation of DepEd for

1 the School Building Program and for Maintenance and other Operating
2 Expenditures shall be directly released to DepEd according to the work and
3 financial schedule stipulated in the program.

4
5 **SECTION. 6. *Appropriation.*** – The amount necessary to attain the
6 objectives of this Act shall be authorized to be appropriated out of the
7 unallocated share of the national government in the income of the Philippine
8 Amusement Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), for a period of five (5) years.

9
10 If the above amount be deemed inadequate, such amount as may be
11 necessary to augment said annual appropriations shall be included in the
12 General Appropriations Act.

13
14 **SECTION. 7. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision in this Act is
15 declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and
16 effectivity of the other provisions hereof.

17
18 **SECTION. 8. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules
19 and regulations and all other issuances of parts thereof, which are
20 inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

21
22 **SECTION. 9. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect upon
23 its approval.

24
25 *Approved,*