Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 637

Introduced by Rep. **Loretta Ann P. Rosales**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Despite our significant gains in transforming and institutionalizing human rights into legal and enforceable rights, cases of human rights violations continue to be committed in the Philippines today. One has only to go through the daily newspapers to know that a large number of cases of harassment, physical and mental torture, abduction and extrajudicial executions continue to occur in our country. These atrocities are not only perpetrated by members of our law enforcement agencies but also by civilian employees and officers of government agencies.

Article XIV, Section 3(2) of the Constitution provides that:

> "They (all educational institutions) shall inculcate patriotism and nationalism, **foster love of humanity**, **respect for human rights**, appreciation of the role of national heroes in the historical development of our country, teach the rights and duties of citizenship, strengthen ethical and spiritual values . . . " (Emphasis supplied)

Likewise, by virtue of Sections 17, 18 and 19 of Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution, the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) was created to ensure the protection and promotion of, and respect for human rights through continuous human rights education, investigation of human rights violations and monitoring of compliance of the government with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights covenants and agreements.

Executive Order No. 27 was also issued on July 24, 1986 that provides for, among others, the utilization of the system of formal and informal education to gain and inculcate greater respect for human rights and deter the commission of human rights violations.

However, eighteen (18) years have passed and we still have to hear from the Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education. Human rights education among our youth, the future of our country, has not yet been fully implemented.

It is the hope of this bill that with the institutionalization of the continuing education on respect for and the protection and promotion of human rights in our educational system, respect for the rights of others and the rule of law, an understanding of the serious consequences of, and the avenues for redress from violations thereof, will finally see light in our country.

The passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

REP. LORETTA ANN P. ROSALES
Akbayan! Party List Representative

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AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING RESPECT FOR AND FOSTERING HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE SYSTEM OF FORMAL AND INFORMAL EDUCATION IN THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. The Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education shall include the study and understanding of human rights in the curricula of all levels of education and training in all schools in the country, adapting the scope and treatment of the subjects or courses on human rights to the respective educational levels. It shall likewise initiate and maintain regular programs and special projects to provide venues for information and discussion of human rights including the utilization of informal education and other means to stress the importance of respect therefor.

SEC. 2. In the formulation and creation of the courses or subjects on human rights to be included in the school curricula or other educational or training programs to implement and carry out the provisions of this Act, the writing, printing and publication of textbooks, manuals and other reading materials relative thereto, the Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education shall consult, coordinate and collaborate with the Commission on Human Rights, human rights non-governmental organizations and people's organizations, and shall at all times emphasize the principles of human rights as they relate to practical conditions, and the laws and rules governing the same.

SEC. 3. The Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education, after considering the needs and capabilities of the students in the different educational levels, shall include in the curricula subjects or courses dealing with international agreements, declarations or covenants on human rights which were ratified by the Philippines or to which it is a signatory.

SEC. 4. No textbook, manual or other reading materials shall be used in the above-mentioned courses on human rights without prior consultation,

coordination and collaboration with the Commission on Human Rights and human rights non-governmental organizations and people's organizations.

SEC. 5. The Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education, in consultation, coordination and collaboration with the Commission on Human Rights, Congress and human rights non-governmental organizations and people's organizations, shall prepare the implementing rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 6. This Act shall be initially implemented within the framework of the budget of the Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education for the year it is enacted into law. As far as practicable, the funds required therefor shall be drawn from its appropriations for policy formulation, program planning, standards development and instructional materials development.

Subsequently, such amounts as may be necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the budget of the Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education in the general appropriations act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

SEC. 7. All laws or any part thereof, inconsistent herewith shall be deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 8. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days upon its publication in at last two (2) newspapers of national circulation.

Approved,