

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

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 676



INTRODUCED BY HONORABLE ALIPIO CIRILO V. BADELLES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

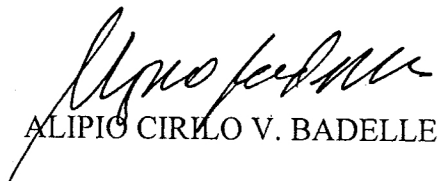
One of the competitive advantages of the Philippines as an investment destination is our English speaking workforce. Anywhere in the world the Filipino Worker is preferred over other nationalities because it can speak and understand English. The developing countries in the Asia as well as other non-English speaking countries in the world have made great strides in learning English to become more competitive.

Unfortunately, this competitive edge has diminished over the years and the learning of English language suffered a setback due largely to the Bilingual Policy of the Department of Education introduced in 1974 through DECS Order No. 25, S. 1974, which purportedly to develop a "bilingual nation competent in the use of English and Filipino". The policy, while it was laudable, has limited the exposure of the learner to both English and Filipino, most especially to the non-tagalog speaker.

Moreover, the books in all disciplines, especially in mathematics and science are written in English. Because of the non-mastery of the language, we have lag behind in terms of knowledge and skills in science, mathematics and technology, especially among our Asian neighbors, and has jeopardized the global competitiveness of our young people.

The bill proposes that we regain the mastery of the English language and improve the total learning process in our schools, especially in our public schools, to ensure better education for the Filipino students and enhance their competitiveness in the global arena.

Thus, the immediate approval of this measure is earnestly sought.


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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE USE OF ENGLISH AS A MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION IN
PHILIPPINE SCHOOLS

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

SECTION 1. The medium of instruction in all curricular levels beginning in Grade I shall be English: *Provided*, That in Grade I and II, the regional language may be used as auxiliary language of instruction.

SEC. 2. English and Filipino shall be taught as separate subjects in all grade levels in the elementary and in the high school levels.

SEC. 3. In the tertiary level, the current programs of instructions in English and Filipino shall be maintained and/or modified subject to the direction of the heads of schools in consultation with the Commission on Higher Education.

SEC. 4. Examinations for purposes of admission to, accreditation, acceleration and promotion in Philippine schools shall use English as the language of assessment: *Provided*, That questions in Filipino may be included but the credit given such questions shall not exceed ten percent (10%) of the total points in the examination.

SEC. 5. The Secretary of Education shall issue the necessary implementing rules and regulations within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act.

SEC. 6. There shall be a transition period of one school year after the approval of this Act before its implementation. No extension of the one year period of transition shall be allowed.

SEC. 7. All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations and other issuances, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with or contrary to any provision of this Act are hereby deemed repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 8. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,