Republic of the Philippines
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

**THIRTEENTH CONGRESS**

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 953



**Introduced by REP. JUDY J. SYJUCO**

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is a policy of the State to promote and advance the right of every Filipino to quality education and to make such education accessible to all.

Sadly though, there are still a lot of Filipino youths that are deprived of an effective means of education that can pragmatically guide them to be responsible partners of the State in nation-building. This, despite the fact that the government has been vigorously instituting reforms to improve the quality of our educational system.

The problem lies mainly on the reality that most of our public schools, which cater primarily to the marginalized sectors of our society, lack the necessary facilities to create an atmosphere conducive to learning. Facilities that can make the students learn effectively and comfortably.

Considering the rapidly increasing student population, one issue that needs to be addressed with foremost attention is the inadequacy of schoolbuildings in public schools, especially in the countryside. The current aggregate of schoolbuildings is so inadequate that a large number of students have to make do with the shade of a tree as a classroom. And some teachers even conduct classes in hallways or stairways of schools.

Only the establishment of a schoolbuilding in every barangay, which this bill proposes, can remedy this pitiful situation. The enactment of this measure will pave the way for the institutionalization of a more potent educational system that can meet the demands of a surging student population and the changing needs of the time. Further, this will positively shift the focus of our education program to the grassroots level where greater attention is presently needed.

Since the strengthening of basic education as a means of empowering the youth and helping them fulfill their roles as future leaders of our nation is one of the major thrusts of the present administration, immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

JUDY J. SYJUCO

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**AN ACT**
**PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SCHOOLBUILDING IN EVERY BARANGAY IN THE PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

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

**SECTION 1.** This Act shall be known as the **"BARANGAY SCHOOLBUILDING ACT OF 2001"**.

**SECTION 2.** It is hereby declared a policy of the State to promote and advance the right of every Filipino to education. The State recognizes the people's need for a quality, affordable and adequate educational system as a tool in nation-building.

**SECTION 3.** The Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) is hereby mandated to be the lead agency in the implementation of this Act, to formulate a guideline of requirements and to structure a timetable to ensure that each and every barangay in the Philippines will have its own schoolbuilding by the end of year 2004. Likewise, DECS is hereby obligated to achieve a twenty percent (20%) completion rate each year until 2004.

**SECTION 4.** In line with this, DECS shall closely coordinate with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) for the funding requirements and other pertinent matters needed in the proper implementation of this Act.

**SECTION 5.** The DECS and DPWH shall closely coordinate with the Local Government Units (LGU) of each barangay with regards to the location of the land where the schoolbuilding is proposed to be established. The schoolbuilding can be annexed to an existing school or be an entirely new school as maybe agreed upon, after consultations with barangay and community leaders, by the DECS and the LGU concerned.

**SECTION 6.** The land where the proposed schoolbuilding is to be constructed must be owned by the government. In the case that the land is a private property, the DECS can purchase the property in part or in whole after coordination with all the concerned agencies.

**SECTION 7.** The appropriation necessary for the implementation of this Act for the year 2001 shall be sourced from the unobligated allocations of DECS, DPWH and DBM under the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such amount as necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

**SECTION 8.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after completion of its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

**APPROVED,**