13TH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 1111

INTRODUCED BY **HON. CYNTHIA A. VILLAR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish the "Books For the Barrios Program" to give the Filipino youth, particularly those living in remote barangays, the chance for upward mobility through education not only by listening but also by reading.

The compulsory education of children is the government's responsibility. As a Constitutional mandate, the government has always given priority to education. But the necessity of having books as a tool for better education seems to have been overlooked. Most public elementary and secondary schools in remote barangays do not have a library or even a small reading area in the school premises for the simple reason that there are very few books or reading materials available.

Education is not only about learning how to read and write, it should be a continuous infusion of knowledge and information. Only by providing the environment for a steady process of intellectual growth gained through reading can the government truly achieve the objective of an effective education.

Thus, the approval of this bill is earnestly urged.

CYNTHIA A. VILLAR

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AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE BOOKS FOR THE BARRIOS PROGRAM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "Books for the Barrios Act of 2004."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to give the Filipino youth, particularly those in remote areas, the chance for upward mobility through education not only by listening but also by reading. Towards this end, all public schools and libraries in remote barangays shall be provided with books under the Books for the Barrios Program.

SEC. 3. *Books for the Barrios Program.* – There shall be established under the Department of Education, the Books for the Barrios Program, hereinafter referred to as the Program.

For this purpose, the Department of Education is hereby authorized to create an office that will take charge of the Program, which shall have the following functions:

(a) Prepare a list of all public schools and libraries throughout the country and regularly update the same;

(b) Formulate guidelines and standards for availment of the benefits under the Program;

(c) Accept and issue receipts for donations of books, magazines and other educational materials for distribution to qualified schools and libraries;

(d) Designate non-government organizations which may solicit book donations or distribute books and other educational materials under its supervision;

(e) Make an inventory every three (3) months of all the books and other educational materials under its supervision; and

(f) Perform such other functions as may be necessary for the effective implementation of the Program.

SEC. 4. *Scope and Coverage of the Program.* – All elementary and secondary public schools and public libraries in remote barangays throughout the country shall be entitled to the benefits offered by the Program: *Provided*, That public schools shall be required to establish their own libraries: *Provided, further,* That private schools and libraries in remote barangays may avail of the benefits under the Program subject to the guidelines and standards as may be prescribed by the Department of Education.

SEC. 5. *Mechanics of the Program.* –

(a) The Department of Education shall introduce the Program through the different government offices, agencies and institutions, the state colleges and universities, non-government organizations and private establishments which shall solicit from their officials, employees and members donation of used books, magazines and other educational materials;

(b) The Department of Education may also solicit books from foreign sources;

(c) At the end of every school year, all graduates from all levels shall be encouraged to donate their books and other educational materials to the Program;

(d) Non-government organizations as may be designated by the Department of Education shall be authorized to solicit and distribute book donations in accordance with the guidelines as may be formulated by the Department of Education: *Provided*, That reports shall be submitted to the Department of Education as to the manner and number of books received and distributed; and

(e) The books and educational materials received shall be inventoried and distributed to qualified schools and libraries as may be determined by the Department of Education in accordance with the guidelines as may be formulated for the Program.

SEC. 6. *Annual Report.* – The Department of Education shall submit an annual report to the President of the Philippines and the Congress on the implementation of the Program. The said annual report shall include the number of books and other educational materials solicited and distributed and the beneficiaries thereof.

SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Department of Education shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 8. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to initially implement the Program shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the Instructional Materials Council Secretariat of the Department of Educations. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of the Program shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,