

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2678

AN ACT

TO AFFORD INTELLECTUAL COMPETENCE FOR THE MEN IN UNIFORM BY GIVING ACCESS TO ALL QUALIFIED SOLDIERS AND POLICEMEN THE PRIVILEGE TO ENROLL IN THE OPEN UNIVERSITY FOR INDEPENDENT STUDIES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES ASSISTING THEM IN THEIR INTELLECTUAL QUEST AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Rep. **SALACNIB F. BATERINA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The undersigned proponent believes in the man in uniform as an indispensable agent for national advancement. Peace is a basic component of economic progress to attract investors. This proposal, though not the cure-all of the ails and difficulties of the man in uniform, must be looked into.

The public perception of the man in uniform, his needs and his basic difficulties.

Among the least considered public servants in terms of being afforded basic learning and personal intellectual advancement is the soldier and the policeman. As a forgotten employee, he is always thought of as an absorbed follower, a robot incapable of education as he is regimented by the very structure of the organization which he belongs, the Armed Forces and the National Police.

The man in uniform will always be presumed by the civilian citizenship as an uneducated, sometimes, corrupt, sometimes obstinate and sometimes consort of the lawless to perpetuate kidnappings, robberies and similar unjustified, unmerited, if not absurd and wholly illogical insinuations.

We rebuke the soldier and the peacekeeper of lacking rectitude and virtue and yet we never look at the good things that he does for the society. We look at a few bad men but we do not see the majority who are deferential and obedient to the laws and who time and again uphold the government at the danger of the lives.

*What can be done to give the soldier
And the policeman opportunity to be*



intellectually competitive, to endow him with competence and personal direction.

We condemn the soldier. We over-emphasize his misdeeds and the most regrettable and distressing of all, we do not think of what we can do to improve his lot.

While there may be asseverations that soldiers are the least easy people to teach, that is hardly the truth because part of his inability to advance his educational welfare is his lack of opportunity to secure instruction, to earn a diploma. The fact that many if them are detailed in far flung hinterlands, islands and in mobile ships of war with no access to tertiary schools, puts the soldier's opportunity to enroll for a baccalaureate degree nil.

There must be a way to show our appreciation to the lowly peace keeper. There must be a program of government to afford them opportunity to secure a degree. He must be educated and removed from the unkind impression that he is the least educated public servant in the extensive government bureaucracy.

The University of the Philippines too is an institution of learning for the opportunity-deprived creatures of governance

The University of the Philippines is probably the largest university systems in the country. From the northern tip of Luzon to the hinterlands of Mindanao, the UP, one way or another, has activities being done. Beside, there are state universities smattered all over the Philippines which could tie-up with the UP to be accessible to the student in distance studies.

Another thing, the UP has a very high standard of education so to speak and its standard could be a barrier to securing a degree. But this is precisely the point that is meant by this proposal, that when a soldier graduates from UP, he can be looked up to as an intellectual elite because he has passed the punctilious direction UP. The bill does not seek to mill off students who are not up to "Diliman standard". Exactly what we want our soldiers, who will be looked up to as erudite and accomplished and who after they get out of service will be able to use their diploma with the highest distinction in the world of keen struggle and competition.

This bill, if passed into law, will not only be a reason to enlist, but this will be his passport to enrollment at the nation's premier State University, weith the end goal of enlarging the population of the Armed Forces and the National Police outfit.

The University of the Philippines too, in extending its service to the men in uniform, will fulfill a dwindling expectation that it becomes a university for the socially, economically and opportunity deprived segment of bureaucracy.

*The call for direction of policy
makers and lawgivers to the
man in uniform.*

It is upon the foregoing consideration that the bill is premised. The legislature should look into the direction of the man in uniform. The Congress should recognize the impute to national advancement of the peacekeeper. We, in the House of Representatives of the 13th Congress, should and must give the matter, our utmost support.

Approval of the bill is seriously and solemnly besought.



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INTELLECTUAL QUEST AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* It is hereby declared a policy of the
2 incumbent administration to place the man in uniform in equal intellectual
3 balance with the mainstream of all government employees and officials by
4 affording them a privilege to enroll and earn a degree in the best school the
5 country can offer to put him forth before everybody: the respect that is due the
6 soldier and peacekeeper.

7 SECTION 2. *Specific Convenience Granted to Students Enrolled in the*
8 *Open University Courses.* The Department of National Defense and the
9 Department of Interior and Local Government shall provide opportunities for
10 the soldier and the policeman to enroll in the Opne University for Independent
11 Studies of the University of the Philippines. In all camps especially in far flung
12 areas, spaces or rooms if affordable shall be segregated by camp and station
13 officials for use of students enrolled.

SECTION 3. The Department of National Defense and the Department of Interior and Local Government shall see to it that students who enroll in UP program shall have the priority in the approval of their furlough, which leave shall be without diminution of pay or privileges.

SECTION 4. *Guidelines.* The Department of National Defense, the Department of Interior and Local Government and the University of the Philippines shall set guidelines

SECTION 5. *Appointment of Liaison Officers.* The Department of National Defense and the Department of Interior and Local Government shall appoint the Heads of the National Defense College and the Police Commission as liaison officers directly under the control of the Department Secretaries who will be tasked to bring about with dispatch the implementation of this Act.

SECTION 6. *Funding.* The amount of Five Million (5,000,000.00) Pesos is hereby allocated from any lump-sum appropriation in the Office of the President, in the budgets of the Department of National Defense and the Department of Interior and Local Government to fund this project and thereafter every year, the funding requirement shall be included and augmented in the appropriations of the University of the Philippines for this particular purpose.

SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.* If any provision or part hereto is held invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain and continue in full force and effect.

SECTION 8. *Effectivity Clause.* This Act shall take effect upon approval and/or upon lapse of 15 days sans veto.

Approved.


SALACNIB F. BATERINA