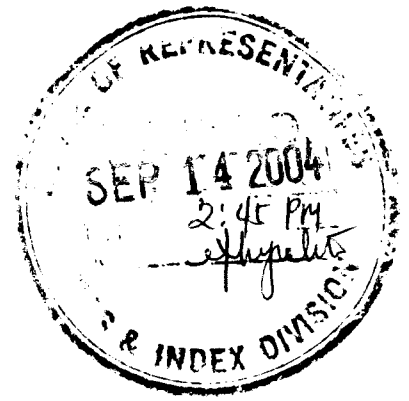


HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
HOUSE BILL NO. 2894



Introduced by Hon. EDUARDO R. GULLAS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Bilingual Policy of the Department of Education, which was introduced in 1974 (through DECS Order No. 25, s. 1974), was designed to develop a "bilingual nation competent in the use of English and Filipino". This policy mandated the teaching of Filipino as a subject in all curricular levels from the elementary to college. In addition, it required the use of Filipino as a medium of instruction in Social Studies, Character Education, Values Education, Physical Education, Industrial Arts and Home Economics.

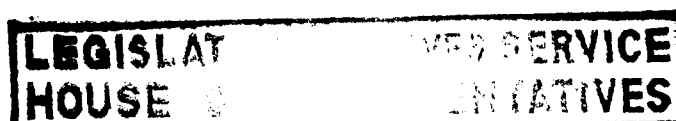
As a result of this policy, the learning of the English language suffered a set back. One reason is what linguists call language interference. Targeting the learning of two languages (English and Pilipino) is too much for the Filipino learners, especially in the lower grades. And if the child happens to be a non-Tagalog speaker, this task actually means learning two foreign languages at the same time, an almost impossible task.

Another reason is that the use of Pilipino (actually Tagalog) as a medium of instruction in the subjects mentioned earlier has limited the exposure of the learner to English, and since exposure is basic to language learning mastery of the language is not attained.

This is tragic. Because books in almost disciplines are written in English, learning these disciplines become a tremendously difficulty undertaking. Science and mathematics, for example, cannot be fully mastered by our students, thus we lag behind other Asian nations in these areas. The TIMS results in 1998 is proof of this.

This bill aims to correct the defects of the current Bilingual Education Program of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports. Its ultimate objective is the improvement of the learning process in schools to ensure quality outputs.


EDUARDO R. GULLAS



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
HOUSE BILL NO. 2894

Introduced by Hon. EDUARDO R. GULLAS

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF A NEW BILINGUAL PROGRAM IN PHILIPPINE SCHOOLS AND THE USE OF ENGLISH AS MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION.

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

SECTION 1. The Bilingual Program of DepEd which mandates that English and Filipino shall be the media of instruction in all schools shall be amended thus:

- 1.1 The medium of instruction in all subjects in the elementary and secondary levels shall be English, except in Pilipino taught as a subject.
- 1.2 English and Filipino shall be taught as separate subjects in all grade levels in the elementary grades and in all year levels in the high school.
- 1.3 The time allotment for English shall be 500 minutes a week for Grades I to III, and 600 minutes for Grade IV to VI. In the high school English shall be taught for 600 minutes per week.
- 1.4 The time allotment for Pilipino as provided for in the current curriculum shall be maintained.
- 1.5 In addition to formal instruction, the use of English shall be encouraged as a language of interaction in the school. Corollary to this, the organization of English clubs, such as book, oratorical, debating, writing clubs and related associations shall be encouraged.
- 1.6 In Grade I and II the regional language may be used as auxiliary language of instruction.
- 1.7 In the tertiary levels the current program of instruction in English and Filipino shall be maintained or modified subject to the discretion of the heads of schools in consultation with the Commission on Higher Education.

SECTION 2. Government examinations shall use English as the language of assessment; however, it may include questions in Filipino provided the credit for such questions shall not exceed ten percent (10%) of the total points in the examination.

SECTION 3. Within 90 days from the approval of this Act, the Secretary of Education shall issue the necessary implementing rules and regulations, and shall take preparatory steps to implement the provisions of this legislation.

SECTION 4. Upon approval of this Act, a transition period of one school year is hereby declared before implementation, provided extension of such period shall not be allowed.

SECTION 5. All laws, rules and regulations which are in conflict with any provision of this Act are hereby deemed repealed or amended.