

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3870



Introduced by **REP. EDMUNDO O. REYES, JR.** Lone District of Marinduque

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Presently, there are pending proposals in the House of Representatives allocating the amount of Php 25 billion out of the Php 38 billion Marcos wealth now deposited in the National Treasury. The proposals intend to allocate certain shares of the funds to victims of human rights violations under latter Administrations. There is also an existing law, the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988 (CARL) which mandates that proceeds of ill-gotten wealth cases of the Marcos regime will be used to fund the programs under said law.

However, it can be argued under Constitutional, legal and moral grounds that whatever ill-gotten wealth that may be recovered from former President Ferdinand E. Marcos as the courts may decide be allocated and spent by the National Government for national priority programs that will benefit the greatest number of our people.

In fact, the Constitution provides in Article XIV Section 5(5) that “the State shall assign the highest budgetary priority to education and to ensure that teaching will attract and retain its rightful share of the best available talents through adequate remuneration and other means of job satisfaction and fulfillment.”

It cannot be denied that the quality of education in the country has been deplorably and continuously deteriorating such that our people may not be able to cope with the demands and challenges of global modernization. The Department of Education (DepEd) has estimated that the total fund necessary to address the backlog in new classrooms, teachers, armchairs, desks and textbooks is approximately Php 22 billion. Moreover, existing teaching and non-teaching personnel of the DepEd have not received salary increases in the past three years despite the rising prices of basic commodities. This backlog in infrastructure and pay increases may not be addressed by the yearly increase in the General Appropriations Act. The annual budget increase if around two to three per cent (2-3%), based on historical average, will never be enough to catch up to the backlog and may, in fact, lead to more shortages given the growing demand for more classrooms, teachers, chairs, books, and pay hikes.

Therefore, said wealth deposit as may be recovered will redound to the greatest interest of the nation as it will benefit not only the human rights victims but also the entire Filipino nation if such funds are allocated to basic education. The pursuit of quality education will generate immeasurable blessings to this nation for now and for the generations to follow in comparison to the fewer human rights and agrarian reform beneficiaries sought to be benefited by the law and other proposals.

In view of the foregoing, support for this bill to allocate Php 25 billion out of the Php 38 billion Marcos wealth held in the National Treasury to priority basic education programs of the National Government to promote educational excellence throughout the country is earnestly requested.


EDMUNDO O. REYES, JR.
Representative

Lone District, Marinduque
Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3870

Introduced by **REP. EDMUNDO O. REYES, JR.** Lone District of Marinduque

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE ALLOCATION OF Php 25B OUT OF THE Php 38B MARCOS
WEALTH DEPOSIT AT THE NATIONAL TREASURY AS A SPECIAL BASIC
EDUCATION FUND TO HELP FINANCE THE MUCH-NEEDED AND URGENT
PRIORITY BASIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.*** Consistent with the mandates of the Constitution
2 for the State to give the highest budgetary priority to education and to establish, maintain and
3 support a complete, adequate and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the
4 people and society, it is declared policy of the State to provide a quality basic education
5 accessible to all school-aged children.

6 **SECTION 2. *Special Basic Education Fund.*** The Php 25 billion out of the Php 38
7 billion wealth deposit in the National Treasury is hereby made, allotted and converted into a
8 Special Basic Education Fund to be administered by the Department of Education. The fund
9 shall be used, over and above existing budgetary allocations of the Department of Education, for
10 the construction, repair and rehabilitation of school buildings, for the acquisition of new school
11 armchairs, desks and textbooks, for the hiring of new public school teachers, and for the increase
12 in salaries of all public school teaching and non-teaching personnel.

13 **SECTION 3. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** The Secretary of the Department of
14 Education is hereby directed to define the guidelines on how to equitable allocate the fund
15 throughout the country and to promulgate rules and regulations necessary for the implementation
16 of this Act.

1 **SECTION 4. *Separability Clause.*** If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act is
2 declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected thereby shall
3 remain in full force and effect.

4 **SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause.*** All laws, decrees, executive orders, letters of
5 instruction, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed
6 or amended accordingly. Section 63(b) of Republic Act No. 6657, as amended, otherwise known
7 as the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988, is hereby repealed.

8 **SECTION 6. *Effectivity Clause.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
9 publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

10 Approved.