

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3062

Introduced by **Kabataan Party-List Rep. Raymond V. Palatino**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 11 of the Philippine Constitution declares that the State values the dignity of every person and guarantees full respect for human rights. The principles and values of human rights that are enshrined in the Philippine Constitution and international covenants, however, are rendered hollow and meaningless when the citizens are not informed of their rights and when human rights violations continue to occur.

The human rights situation in the Philippines took a serious beating during the past decade. According to human rights group Karapatan, human-rights atrocities and violations continuously occurred, victimizing thousands of Filipinos particularly those who are critical of the government's economic policies and of the rampant corruption in the bureaucracy.

Karapatan noted in its 2009 report that from the time Former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo assumed the presidency in 2001 up to October 2009, there are a total of 1,118 victims of extrajudicial killings and 204 who have been forcibly disappeared and are still missing.

Aside from the rampant violations of the civil and political rights, the past government's grim human rights record is also manifest in the economic, social and cultural realm. More than three decades after the Philippines ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the rights of millions of Filipinos are increasingly being neglected and undermined such as the right to education, decent jobs, health, food and other social services, and adequate standard of living, among others.

Amidst this backdrop, there is a pressing and serious need for the government to educate its citizens, especially the youth, on their civil, political, economic, social and

cultural rights. This role is stipulated in the Constitution, which specifically calls for all educational institutions to "inculcate... respect for human rights" and in the mandate of the Commission of Human Rights, which is tasked to "establish a continuing program of research, education, and information to enhance respect for the primacy of human rights."

At present, the subject "Human Rights" is being taught by Philippine schools only on a voluntary basis. Thus, this bill seeks to make human rights subjects a mandatory part of the curriculum of all education institutions in the country.

In the face of the country's human rights situation, it is high time that the importance of human rights be inculcated in our youth. In light of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


Hon. Raymond V. Palatino
Representative, Kabataan Party-List

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE MANDATORY STUDY OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE
CURRICULA OF ALL LEVELS OF SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTRY

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

SECTION 1. *Short title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Human Rights Education Act of 2010.”

SECTION 2. *Human rights education.* – All public and private schools shall include in their curricula courses, subjects and/or special lectures on human rights. No school shall be established or allowed to operate unless this requirement is complied with.

SECTION 3. The Department of Education and Commission on Higher Education, in consultation and close coordination with the Commission on Human Rights and various non-government organizations, advocacy groups and human rights organizations, shall formulate courses, subjects and/or special lectures on human rights to be taught as separate courses or incorporated in existing subjects now being taught in all levels of education throughout the country.

SECTION 4. The Department of Education and Commission on Higher Education shall also consult and coordinate with the Commission on Human Rights and various non-government organizations, advocacy groups and human rights organizations, in the writing, printing and publication of textbooks, manuals and other reading materials to be used in the human rights courses.

SECTION 5. This Act shall be implemented initially within the framework of the budget of the Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education and state universities and colleges for the year it is enacted into law. As far as practicable, the funds required therefor

shall be drawn from its appropriations for policy formulation, program planning, standards development and instructional materials development.

Thereafter, such amounts as may be necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the budget of the Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education and state universities and colleges in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 6. *Implementating Rules and Regulations.* – The DepEd and CHED shall promulgate and issue the necessary implementing rules and regulations within thirty (30) days after the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with, the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

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

Approved,