

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **5049**

Introduced by **REP. ANTHONY G. DEL ROSARIO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to institutionalize the open technical-vocational school system in the country.

Article XIV, Sec. 1 of the Constitution provides:

"Section 1. The State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all."

Access to quality education is a basic right of every citizen. However, most of our youths, prefer to earn a living at an early age rather than go to school because of poverty.

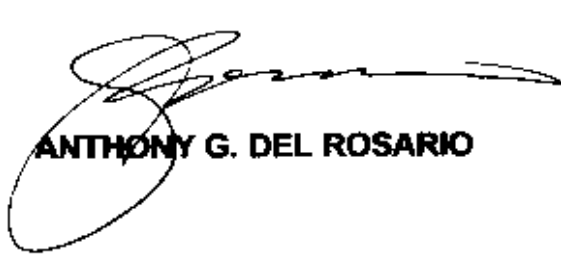
The data of the National Statistical Coordination Board show that the drop-out rate for primary education increased from 8.6% in 2006 to 9% in 2007. This is collaborated by the records of the World Bank which show that as of 2008, there are 961,298 primary children who are out of school. On the other hand, the Social Weather Stations (SWS) Survey shows that as of September 2010, a total of 18.1% or 3.4 million families nationwide claimed to have gone hungry and that 9.2 million families considered themselves poor.

The educational system in the country has been besieged with shortages both in classrooms and teachers. In the previous school year, there was an estimated 60,000 shortage in classrooms as evidenced by a substantial student-teacher ratio which stands at 50:1. This problem has to be addressed.

This proposed measure seeks to provide alternative means of addressing our present problem in education through the institutionalization of the Open Technical-Vocational School System. Its purpose is to provide flexible educational opportunities for the out-of-school-youths, unemployed, underemployed or differently-abled youths through the access of internet. It will also equip the students with skills for productive work and prepare them to actively participate in community development and will enable the government to meet its *"Education for All"* agenda.

The institutionalization of the Open Technical-Vocational School System will give priority to those who cannot afford formal education because of poverty and will take into consideration the economic viability skills of the particular area or region.

Hence, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



ANTHONY G. DEL ROSARIO

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AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE OPEN TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL SCHOOL SYSTEM IN
THE COUNTRY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. **Short Title.** -- This Act shall be known as the "*Open Technical-Vocational School System Act.*"

SEC. 2. **Declaration of Policy.** -- It is the declared policy of the State to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all. Towards this end, the State shall provide flexible educational opportunities that will enable all persons specially the youth to overcome geographical, socioeconomic and physical constraints in achieving relevant education.

SEC. 3. **Open Technical-Vocational School System.** -- To carry out the purposes of this Act, the Open Technical-Vocational School System, hereinafter referred to as the "*System,*" is hereby institutionalized in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

The System shall apply to all technical-vocational schools and all schools with dual system education under the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA). All existing programs and projects of the TESDA regarding technical-vocational education and skills development shall form part of the curriculum of the open technical-vocation school system.

It shall provide flexible educational opportunities to any person such as, but not limited to, out of school youths, unemployed, underemployed and differently-abled youths as well as adults through access to instructions, lessons and modules by the use

of internet and other multi-media approach. The distance learning components of the System shall serve as its core.

SEC. 4. *Salient Features.* – The System shall be characterized by the following features:

- a) It shall use the multi-media such as internet, audio-video or print. There shall be minimal interface with teachers particularly in courses which need hands-on training and supervision;
- b) It shall give priority to those who cannot afford education because of poverty and geographical distance to existing technical-vocational centers;
- c) The TESDA shall develop training modules that will take into consideration the economic viability of the skills in a particular area or region; and
- d) It shall be established in TESDA Centers, public schools or TESDA accredited technical vocational schools all over the country.

SEC. 5. *Age Requirement.* – The System shall be open to any person from eighteen (18) to forty-five (45) years of age who wishes to take up technical, vocational and other short courses.

SEC. 6. *Procedure of Enrolment and Certification.* – Any person who is interested to enroll in a technical-vocational course shall register in the nearest testing center of the System. Thereafter, he may access all instructional modules through the internet or website for the particular course. Upon completion of the required modules of the course, the student shall report to the testing center to take the required examination in order to obtain a certification of completion.

SEC. 7. *Administration and Supervision.* – The Office of the Formal Technical Vocational Education and Training (OFFTVET) of TESDA shall administer and supervise the System. It shall perform the following additional functions:

- a) Formulate the objectives and basic policies of the System;
- b) Formulate, adopt and supplement programs that will make the System effective and productive;
- c) Monitor and evaluate existing distance learning programs for the integration with the System;
- d) Develop and validate model instructional distance learning modules;

e) Promulgate the necessary guidelines, rules and regulations for the effective implementation of the System;

f) Recommend to the TESDA the annual budget of the System for inclusion in the General Appropriations Act; and

g) Perform such other functions as may be necessary to attain the objectives of the System.

SEC. 8. *Special Training for Instructors.* – Instructors and training personnel who intend to teach in the System must receive training and appropriate education as determined by the TESDA. They shall receive benefits, privileges and compensation consistent with the existing laws.

SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act, the Director General of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, in coordination with the Chairman of the Commission on Higher Education and the Secretary of Labor and Employment, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SEC. 10. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be taken from the current appropriations for the TESDA. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, regulations or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 12. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,