

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

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **2703**



Introduced by Kabataan Party-List Representative Terry L. Ridon

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Corruption has been, and continues to be, one of the biggest problems besetting our nation. There is no shortage of anti-corruption laws and other initiatives in the country, yet cases of malpractices and abuse of power have been far too common -- from frontline services to the highest post in the land. Only a few have been prosecuted for bad practices in government. People of questionable integrity continue to hold public office and still have access to the coffers of the nation. Billions of pesos are lost each year to corruption, which means that there are less resources available for social services.

Studies suggest that one of the best deterrents to corruption is active citizen engagement in civic affairs. There is a need to create an army of watchdogs against bad practices in government, and the youth -- with our idealism and vigor -- have a significant role to play in good governance and in battling corruption, abuse of power, and the inefficient delivery of services.

This bill seeks to educate our elementary and high school students on good governance, ethics and accountability in public service by including such topics in the basic education social studies curriculum, particularly Article XI of the Philippine Constitution Accountability of Public Officers, Republic Act Nos. 3019 and 6713, the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act and the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees.

The bill is pursuant to and is consistent with the 1987 Philippine Constitution. Section 13, Article II states: "The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building... It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs". Section 3(2) of Article XIV mandates educational institutions to inculcate patriotism and nationalism, teach the rights and duties of citizenship, and strengthen ethical values, develop moral character and personal discipline, encourage critical thinking.

Educating our children on the ideals of public service and its best practices will

encourage them to get involved in public and civic affairs. Including in our basic curriculum the topics of good governance, ethics and accountability will inculcate to our youth the importance of efficient and moral leadership. Even at an early age, our youth should be empowered to engage their leaders and contribute to social development. In the long term, the bill aims to provide the knowledge for future voters to make sound decisions in choosing candidates to elect in public office, and more so, to create model citizens and a large reserve of public servants who, with the ideals of patriotism, justice, responsibility and integrity are accountable to and are in service of the Filipino people.

In pursuit of an education that serves the interest of the people, and to battle corruption, abuse of power and inefficient delivery of social services, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



HON. TERRY L. RIDON
Representative, Kabataan Party-list

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

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **2703**

Introduced by **Kabataan Party-List Representative Terry L. Ridon**

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE INCLUSION OF TOPICS OF GOOD GOVERNANCE, PUBLIC
ETHICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN PUBLIC SERVICE IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES
CURRICULA IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known and be cited as the "Good
2 Governance Education Act".

3 **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policies.** – The State recognizes the vital role of the youth
4 in nation building. the State encourages the youth's involvement in public and civic affairs
5 and shall educate them both about good governance, ethics and accountability in public
6 service.

7 **SECTION 3. Good Governance Education.** – The Department of Education shall
8 integrate in the social science curriculum of primary and secondary school students good
9 governance topics including but not limited to:

10 a. Article XI of the 1987 Constitution - Accountability of Public Officers;

11 b. R.A. 6713 or the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and
12 Employees;

13 c. R.A. 3019 or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

14 **SECTION 4. Implementing Agency.** – The Department of Education shall formulate
15 materials and integrate in the social studies curriculum for primary and secondary education

1 such materials in pursuance of this Act

2 **SECTION 5. *Funding.*** – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act
3 shall be charged to the appropriations of the Department of Education. Thereafter, such sum
4 as may be necessary for its continuous implementation shall be included in the annual
5 General Appropriations Act.

6 **SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision or part thereof, is held invalid or
7 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
8 valid and subsisting.

9 **SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.*** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
10 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or is inconsistent
11 with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

12 **SECTION 8. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
13 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,