

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 6419

Introduced by Hon. Salvador B. Belaro Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Social justice requires that the benefits of living in our society be extended to our brothers who are members of indigenous cultural communities who are naturally based in far-flung areas of the country.

On the other hand, education is an equalizing factor that if made available to our brother in indigenous cultural communities would definitely improve their lives and enable them to adapt in our national polity.

The establishment of at least one basic education school in every indigenous cultural community is definitely a step towards making our indigenous peoples become valuable members of our society, and thus, the passage of this legislation is earnestly sought.

CONG. SALVADOR B. BELARO, JR.

Representative

1-Ang Edukasyon Party List

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A BASIC EDUCATION SCHOOL IN EVERY
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES COMMUNITY IN THE COUNTRY AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the “School for Every Indigenous Peoples Community Act of 2017”.

SECTION 2. The State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels of education and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.

The Constitution provides that the State recognizes and promotes the rights of indigenous cultural communities within the framework of national unity and development.

SECTION 3. As used in this Act:

- a. Basic Education refers to the intended basic learning needs which provides the foundation on which subsequent learning can be based. It includes kindergarten, elementary and secondary education as well as alternative learning systems for out-of-school learners and those with special needs.
- b. Basic Education School refers to learning institutions accredited by the Department of Education (DepEd) to deliver services addressing the intended basic learning needs of students; and
- c. Indigenous Peoples or Indigenous Peoples Community refers to the same definition stated in Section 3h, Ch. 2 of RA No. 8371 or the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act of 1997 which describes it as "group of people or homogenous societies who have lived as organized community on communally bounded and defined territory, sharing common bonds of language, customs, traditions and other distinctive cultural traits, or who have resisted political, social and cultural inroads of colonization, non-indigenous religions and cultures, or the establishment of present state boundaries."

SECTION 4. It is herein mandated that there shall be established at least one Basic Education School for every Indigenous Peoples Community in the country.

SECTION 5. The Department of Education, in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways, is herein tasked to formulate the Implementing Rules and Regulation of this Act within thirty (30) days from its effectivity.

SECTION 6. An initial amount of One Hundred Million Pesos (P100,000,000.00) necessary for the implementation of this act shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act upon the effectivity of this Act.

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

SECTION 8. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. This act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved.