

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. 8489



Introduced by **MAGDALO Party-List Representative**
HON. GARY C. ALEJANO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Libraries play a vital role in promoting the progress of knowledge. As gateways to knowledge and culture, libraries play a fundamental role in society. The resources and services they offer create opportunities for learning, support literacy and education, and help shape the new ideas and perspectives that are central to a creative and innovative society. They also help ensure an authentic record of knowledge created and accumulated by past generations. In a world without libraries, it would be difficult to advance research and human knowledge or preserve the world's cumulative knowledge and heritage for future generations.

Moreover, libraries are synonymous with education and offer countless learning opportunities that can fuel economic, social and cultural development. The inspiring story of William Kamkwamba from Malawi underlines the difference a library can make. Having borrowed a book about windmills from his local library, Mr. Kamkwamba learned how to build an energy-producing turbine for his village. On the strength of this experience he went on to study at a leading US university. That one book not only changed his life; it also transformed the lives of those in his village community. Such stories explain why many countries are eager to ensure that libraries continue to provide access to knowledge, learning and ideas.

Therefore, seeing that libraries play an important role in nation-building, this bill shall aim to give as many Filipinos as possible the chance to develop themselves by strengthening the establishment of municipal libraries.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


Rep. Gary C. Alejano

council] **PROVIDED FURTHER, THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PROVINCIAL, CITY AND MUNICIPAL PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND/OR BARANGAY READING CENTERS IN EVERY PROVINCE. CITY, AND MUNICIPALITY IS INCLUDED IN THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN APPROVED BY THE RESPECTIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCILS** [of each city or municipality and in the case of the barangay reading centers in coordination with the respective barangay councils]: *Provided further MORE*, That, where these public libraries and reading centers already exist, the National Library, **TOGETHER WITH THE LGUS HOSTING THESE PUBLIC LIBRARIES** shall continue **AND PURSUE PROGRAM** to upgrade the facilities thereof.

“The National Library shall continue to coordinate and organize seminars, workshops, and other trainings for the professional benefit of librarians **NATIONWIDE.**”

SEC. 3. Section 3 of Republic Act No. 7743 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“**Sec. 3. Role of the National Library.**—The National Library shall **HELP AND ASSIST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, PROVINCIAL, CITY, AND MUNICIPAL PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN THE ENHANCEMENT AND UPGRADING OF LIBRARY MATERIALS AND FACILITIES, TO INCLUDE, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE PROVISION OF THE FOLLOWING:** [provide the standard set of] reference books and other materials, **TO INCLUDE AMONG OTHERS,** [such as but not limited to] encyclopedias, dictionaries, maps, and globes [upon the establishment of the libraries]. [The National Library] **IT** shall continue to supply the public libraries with the other books, non-book materials, equipment supplies and other appropriate and relevant reference and reading materials taking into consideration the needs of the community concerned.”

SEC. 4. There is hereby a new section to be inserted and labeled as Section 4 of Republic Act No. 7743 to read as follows:

SEC. 4. ROLE OF THE LGUS.—**TO EFFECTIVELY ENSURE THE CONTINUITY OF THE OPERATION OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES, THE LGUS CONCERNED SHALL APPROPRIATE AT LEAST TWENTY-FIVE (25%) FROM THEIR ANNUAL SPECIAL EDUCATION FUND (SEF) TAX COLLECTIONS WHICH SHALL BE UTILIZED FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE LIBRARY INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES, THE PURCHASE OF LIBRARY MATERIALS AND OTHER NECESSARY EXPENSES THAT MAY BE INCURRED IN THE COURSE OF OPERATION.**

1 LGUS SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SALARY AND OTHER
2 EMOLUMENTS OF LIBRARY PERSONNEL EXCEPT THE SALARY AND
3 OTHER EMOLUMENTS OF RESIDENT PROFESSIONAL LIBRARIANS WHICH
4 SHALL BE GOTTEN FROM THE ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE NATIONAL
5 LIBRARY.

6 SEC. 5. There is hereby a new section to be inserted and labeled as Section 5 of Republic
7 Act No. 7743 to read as follows:

8 SEC. 5. *APPOINTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL LIBRARIANS.*—THE
9 SELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC LIBRARIANS SHALL BE IN
10 ACCORDANCE WITH THE MERIT AND FITNESS PRINCIPLE. THE
11 APPOINTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL LIBRARIANS IN ALL PUBLIC LIBRARIES
12 IN THE PROVINCIAL, CITY, AND MUNICIPAL LEVELS SHALL BE
13 MANDATORY AT LEAST ONE (1) YEAR AFTER THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS
14 ACT. PURSUANT TO THIS, ALL HEADS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS
15 (LGUS) CONCERNED SHALL ENSURE THAT BUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS
16 FOR THE PURPOSE OF EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENTING THE PROVISION OF
17 THIS ACT SHALL BE INCLUDED IN THEIR ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS. IN
18 THE CASE OF THE BARANGAY READING CENTERS, HOWEVER,
19 APPOINTMENTS TO THE PUBLIC LIBRARIAN POSITION SHALL BE
20 SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS: *PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT*
21 *APPOINTMENTS TO THE SAME POSITION IN PERMANENT CAPACITY*
22 *SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE SET REQUIREMENTS OF THE CIVIL SERVICE*
23 *COMMISSION.*

24 SEC. 6. *Director.*—Section 5 of Republic Act No. 7743 is hereby amended as follows:

25 “Sec. [5.] 7. *Period of Implementation.*—The overall national plan of implementation
26 shall cover initially a period of five (5) years: *Provided, That* those congressional districts,
27 cities, and municipalities with no existing public libraries as well as barangays situated in
28 remote, isolated and rural areas, shall have a priority in the allocation of resources.

29 Within one hundred twenty (120) days from the effectivity of this Act, the National
30 Library in [consultation with the DILG] **COORDINATION WITH LGUS**
31 **CONCERNED,** the **CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, PROVINCIAL, CITY, AND**
32 **MUNICIPAL ENGINEER** [Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)] and the

1 **DIVISION SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT CONCERNED OF THE DEPARTMENT OF**
2 **EDUCATION (DEPED)** [different local government units], shall come out with [the list of
3 priority areas, taking into account the commitment of the local government units in the
4 establishment and maintenance of public libraries and barangay reading centers] **A**
5 **PROGRAM FOR THE EFFECTIVE COMPLIANCE TO THE PROVISIONS OF**
6 **THIS ACT.**

7 **SEC. 7.** Section 7 of Republic Act No. 7743 is hereby amended to read as follows:

8 “**Sec. [7.] 9. Appropriations.**—The **SEED** amount **OF FIVE HUNDRED**
9 **MILLION PESOS FOR EVERY YEAR FOR TWO (2) YEARS SHALL BE**
10 **APPROPRIATED FROM THE UNEXPENDED INCOME OF THE PHILIPPINE**
11 **CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES OFFICE (PCSO). ON THE THIRD YEAR OF THE**
12 **PROGRAM AND THEREAFTER, THE AMOUNT OF ONE HUNDRED MILLION**
13 **(P100,000,000)** [allocated necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act] shall be included
14 in the **ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY.** [General Appropriations Act
15 of the year following its enactment into law and for the next five (5) years; thereafter,] T[t]he
16 local government units shall undertake the maintenance of public libraries and reading centers
17 while the National Library shall continue to provide reading materials and supplies to the
18 said libraries and reading centers.”

19 **SEC. 8.** Section 9 of Republic Act No. 7743 is hereby amended to read as follows:

20 “**Sec. [9.] 10. Rules and Regulations.**—Within sixty (60) days from the approval of
21 this Act, the National Library, in coordination with the [DILG] **REPRESENTATIVES**
22 **FROM LEAGUES OF PROVINCES, CITIES, AND MUNICIPALITIES** and the
23 Philippine Information Agency (PIA), shall promulgate the implementing rules and
24 regulations.”

25 **SEC. 9. Repealing Clause.**—All laws, decrees, executive orders or parts thereof
26 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

27 **SEC. 10. Separability Clause.**—If any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or
28 unconstitutional, the other parts not otherwise affected shall remain in full effect and force.

29 **SEC. 11. Effectivity.**—This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,