

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1063



Introduced by Representative Gloria Macapagal Arroyo

**AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE PHILIPPINE BASIC EDUCATION SYSTEM,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10533, APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES¹**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act (RA) No. 10533, or the Enhanced Basic Education Act, was enacted in 2013 promising to increase the employability and competitiveness of basic education graduates in an increasingly globalizing world. It increased the number of years of secondary education from four (4) years to six (6) years. Government expenditure increased to cover the additional two years of secondary education, while families spent more time and resources to make sure children graduate from the expanded basic education system.

Ten years since the passage of the law, there is evidence that the results of these reforms do not justify the additional monetary and time costs brought about by RA No. 10533. Filipino students have repeatedly scored low on reading comprehension and mathematical literacy tests conducted by various international organizations. The focus on the number of years spent in basic education while not addressing the quality of teaching at both primary and secondary levels has prevented the basic education system from achieving the promises of the Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013. It is thus time to review the law to calibrate the country's basic education system to hit the root causes of our students' underperformance and lack of employability in the global market.

This bill aims to free up the necessary resources to address backlogs in our education system such as infrastructure and study materials by shortening secondary education to four (4) years. College and university-bound students will be required to take an additional two (2) years of college-preparatory education, to ensure the competitiveness of Filipino students as they enter higher education institutions (HEIs).

For the reasons above-cited, and the desire for a smooth transition towards a more empowered regulatory commission, the approval of this measure is earnestly sought.


GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
Representative, 2nd District Pampanga

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

SECTION 1. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 10533 is hereby amended as follows:

Enhanced Basic Education Program. — The enhanced basic education program encompasses at least one (1) year of kindergarten education, six (6) years of elementary education, and four (4) years of secondary education, in that sequence. Provided that, there shall be an additional two (2) years of post-secondary, pre-university education as preparation for professional degree studies. This program shall be known as the K Plus 10 Plus 2 program .

Secondary education refers to the third stage of compulsory basic education. It consists of four (4) years of high school education. Completion of this stage shall qualify graduates to enroll in Technical Vocational Institutions (TVIs).

Post-secondary, pre-university education refers to the fourth stage of education, compulsory only as preparation for professional degree studies in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).

Basic education shall be delivered in languages understood by the learners as the language plays a strategic role in shaping the formative years of learners.

For kindergarten and the first three (3) years of elementary education, instruction, teaching materials and assessment shall be in the regional or native language of the learners. The Department of Education (DepED) shall formulate a mother language transition program from Grade 4 to Grade 6 so that English shall be gradually introduced as languages of instruction until such time when it can become the primary language of instruction at the secondary level.

For purposes of this Act, mother language or first Language (LI) refers to language or languages first learned by a child, which he/she identifies with, is identified as a native language user of by others, which he/she knows best, or uses

most. This includes Filipino sign language used by individuals with pertinent disabilities. The regional or native language refers to the traditional speech variety or variety of Filipino sign language existing in a region, area or place.

SEC. 2. Sec. 12 of Republic Act No. 10533 is hereby amended as follows:

Transitory Provisions. — The Department of Education shall formulate the appropriate strategies and mechanisms needed to ensure smooth transition from the existing enhanced basic education (K to 12) cycle to the new enhanced basic education (K Plus 10 Plus 2) cycle provided by this Act. The strategies may cover changes in physical infrastructure, manpower, organizational and structural concerns. Modeling for post-secondary, pre-university education may be implemented in selected schools to simulate the transition process and provide concrete data for the transition plan. Said strategies shall replace the need for Implementing Rule and Regulations.

SEC. 3. Appropriations. — The Secretary of Education shall include in the Department's program the operationalization of the enhanced basic education program, the initial funding of which shall be charged against the current appropriations of the DepED. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continued implementation of the enhanced basic education program shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 4. Separability Clause. — If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions hereof.

SEC. 5. Repealing Clause. — Pertinent provisions of Batas Pambansa Blg. 232 or the "Education Act of 1982", Republic Act No. 9155 or the "Governance of Basic Education Act of 2001", Republic Act No. 9258, Republic Act No. 7836, Republic Act No. 10533, especially Sec. 16 thereof, and all other laws, decrees, executive orders and rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 6. Effectivity Clause. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,