



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **2972**



Introduced by Representatives Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, Andrew Julian K. Romualdez and Jude A. Acidre

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING AND ENHANCING THE ROLE OF PARENT-TEACHER AND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS IN PROMOTING THE WELFARE AND PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 603, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "CHILD AND YOUTH WELFARE CODE"

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Philippine Constitution declares that the State shall establish, maintain, and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the people and society,¹ as well as the goals of national development. Towards this end, the government shall foster, at all times, a spirit of shared purpose and cooperation among the members and elements of the educational community, and between the community and other sectors of society, in the realization that only in such an atmosphere can the true goals and objectives of education be fulfilled.²

Accordingly, the State shall encourage non-governmental, community-based, or sectoral organizations that promote the welfare of the nation³. It shall establish

¹ Section 2 (1), Article XIV of the 1987 Philippine Constitution

² Section 5, Part II, Chapter I of the Batas Pambansa Big. No. 232 or the "Education Act of 1982"

³ Section 23, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution

school and community networks and promote the active participation of teachers, organizations, non-academic personnel of public schools, and parent-teacher-community associations⁴. After all, it is a constitutionally protected right of the people, including those employed in the public and private sectors, to form unions, associations, or societies for purposes not contrary to law⁵.

This bill seeks to institutionalize and enhance the role of Parent-Teacher and Community Associations (PTCA), organized under Presidential Decree No. 603 otherwise known as "The Child and Youth Welfare Code", in the rearing, education, and holistic development of the children towards civic involvement. The PTCA, which shall be composed of parents, teachers, and a duly recognized community group, shall create development programs for children; foster and ensure inclusivity and full cooperation; provide an avenue for discussing relevant concerns in schools and communities; provide assistance to schools for the promotion of common interests; and promote child protection, among other duties and functions.

It is noteworthy that children grow and learn best when the parents, teachers, and community members work together to encourage, support, and protect them. Indeed, the meaningful involvement and support of the parents, teachers, and community are essential in maintaining an atmosphere conducive to the proper upbringing of children, particularly with respect to their preparation for adult life and the conscientious discharge of their civic duties as a whole.

Similar bills were filed during the 18th and 19th Congress, and both measures were approved on Third Reading by the House of Representatives and duly transmitted to the Senate for its concurrence.

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


FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ


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⁴ Section 7 (e), Chapter I, of the Republic Act No. 9155 or the "Governance of Basic Education Act of 2001"

⁵ Section 8, Article III of the 1987 Philippine Constitution



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

SECTION 1. Article 77 of Presidential Decree No. 603 is amended to read as follows:

“ART. 77. Parent-Teacher AND COMMUNITY Associations.

– Every [elementary and secondary] **EARLY CHILD**

DEVELOPMENT CENTER AND BASIC EDUCATION school shall organize a parent-teacher **AND COMMUNITY** association (PTCA) [for the purpose of providing a forum for the discussion of problems and their solutions, relating to the total school program, and for insuring the full cooperation of parents in the efficient implementation of such program]. **THE PTCA SHALL BE COMPOSED OF PARENTS, PARENT-SUBSTITUTES, TEACHERS, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKERS, AND A DULY RECOGNIZED COMMUNITY GROUP, WHICH MAY BE SOCIAL WORKERS, GUIDANCE COUNSELORS, MEDICAL OR MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONERS, OR THOSE HAVING KNOWLEDGE, TRAINING, OR EXPERIENCE IN THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF CHILD RIGHTS. THEY SHALL ELECT FROM AMONG THEMSELVES THEIR RESPECTIVE SETS OF OFFICERS.**

“FOR PURPOSES OF THIS ACT, A PARENT-SUBSTITUTE REFERS TO A PERSON OTHER THAN THE BIOLOGICAL PARENT WHO HAS CUSTODY OVER A CHILD AND IS PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CHILD’S CARE AND PHYSICAL, MORAL AND INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT SUCH AS FOSTER CARE PARENTS, LEGAL GUARDIANS AND CARE PROVIDERS: *PROVIDED*, THAT SURROGATE PARENTS AND CARE PROVIDERS SHALL SECURE A CERTIFICATION FROM THE PROPER OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND

DEVELOPMENT CONFIRMING THEM AS PARENT-SUBSTITUTES.

“All parents **AND PARENT-SUBSTITUTES** who have children enrolled in **CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTERS AND BASIC EDUCATION** [a] schools **SHALL BECOME** [are encouraged to be active] **AUTOMATIC** members of [its PTA, and to comply with whatever obligations] **THE PTCA AND SHALL COMPLY WITH THE DUTIES** and responsibilities **THAT** such membership entails. **FATHERS AND MALE CAREGIVERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN PTCA ACTIVITIES.**

“[Parent-Teacher Association] **PTCAs** all over the country shall [aid] **ASSIST** the **PROVINCIAL, CITY,** municipal and other local authorities, and school officials in the [enforcement of juvenile delinquency control measures, and in the] **ADVOCACY OF AND** implementation of programs and activities **THAT PROTECT THE RIGHTS AND** [to] promote [child] **THE welfare OF CHILDREN.**

“**PTCAs SHALL CLOSELY WORK AND COORDINATE WITH SCHOOL OFFICIALS, STUDENT COUNCILS, LOCAL COUNCILS FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN, STAKEHOLDERS, AND OTHER CONCERNED AUTHORITIES, IN IMPLEMENTING A HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR CHILDREN.**”

SEC. 2. A new Article 77-A is hereby inserted in Presidential Decree No. 603, to read as follows:

**“ART. 77-A. PRINCIPAL FUNCTIONS OF THE PTCAs. –
THE PRINCIPAL FUNCTIONS OF THE PTCAs ARE AS
FOLLOWS:**

**“(1) CREATE A DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR
CHILDREN TO ENSURE THAT THEY BECOME WELL-
ROUNDED, STABLE, SOCIABLE, AND CIVIC-ORIENTED
CITIZENS;**

**“(2) ENSURE THE FULL COOPERATION OF PARENTS,
PARENT-SUBSTITUTES, TEACHERS, AND COMMUNITY
STAKEHOLDERS IN THE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
THROUGH CAPACITY-BUILDING SESSIONS OR RELATED
ACTIVITIES THAT EMPHASIZE THEIR ROLES AND
RESPONSIBILITIES;**

**“(3) CONSULT THE CHILDREN AT ALL TIMES,
THROUGH THEIR STUDENT COUNCILS, PARENTS, PARENT-
SUBSTITUTES, OR CAREGIVERS OF YOUNGER CHILDREN,
AND CHILD ORGANIZATIONS IN THE PLANNING AND
IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMS, PROJECTS, AND
ACTIVITIES;**

“(4) SERVE AS AN AVENUE FOR LOCAL SCHOOL STAKEHOLDERS TO DESIGN OTHER APPROPRIATE PROGRAMS, DISCUSS ISSUES, IDENTIFY SOLUTIONS, AND RECOMMEND ACTIONS THAT SHALL ADDRESS CHILDREN’S CONCERNS;

“(5) RAISE AWARENESS ON AND SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CHILD PROTECTION POLICIES IN SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES;

“(6) ASSESS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF BASIC EDUCATION PROGRAM THROUGH INCREASED COLLABORATION AND COOPERATION AMONG KEY LOCAL SCHOOL STAKEHOLDERS, SUCH AS THE PARENTS, PARENT-SUBSTITUTES, TEACHERS, SCHOOL OFFICIALS, AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, AMONG OTHERS;

“(7) PARTNER WITH THE APPROPRIATE SCHOOL OFFICIALS AND CONSULT STUDENT COUNCILS, PARENTS, PARENT-SUBSTITUTES, OR CAREGIVERS OF YOUNGER CHILDREN, AND CHILD ORGANIZATIONS, IN THE DESIGN, IMPLEMENTATION, AND MONITORING OF SCHOOL PROGRAMS, SUCH AS CHILD PROTECTION, LITERACY, HYGIENE, HEALTH AND NUTRITION, AND DISASTER RISK

REDUCTION, THAT REQUIRE THE FOLLOW-THROUGH, SUPPORT, AND PARTICIPATION OF ALL STAKEHOLDERS;

“(8) STRENGTHEN AWARENESS AND PARTICIPATION AMONG SCHOOL STAKEHOLDERS BY FACILITATING INFORMATION DISSEMINATION REGARDING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DEPED) AND LOCAL SCHOOL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE DELIVERY MODES AND PARTICIPATION IN MONITORING, ASSESSING, AND EVALUATING THESE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES; AND

“(9) SEEK THE ASSISTANCE OF CONCERNED NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN INTEGRATING RELEVANT PROGRAMS, PROJECTS, OR ACTIVITIES, WHICH MAY BE UTILIZED IN THE ENHANCEMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.”

SEC. 3. The DepEd and the Early Childhood Care and Development Council shall, in consultation with concerned government agencies and private organizations, issue the necessary implementing rules and regulations within six (6) months from the approval of this Act.

SEC. 4. If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in force and effect.

SEC. 5. All laws, decrees, orders, and rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 6. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,