

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

House Bill No. **5012**



Introduced by Representative ERIC G. YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Education remains one of the most vital tools for uplifting communities, especially in rural and far-flung areas. Guaranteeing that children have access to continuous and quality basic education within their own localities is essential in reducing barriers that hinder their learning and development.

At present, Virac Elementary School in Barangay Virac, Municipality of Itogon, Province of Benguet, caters only to elementary education. The absence of secondary school infrastructure in the area forces students who wish to continue their studies to travel to other barangays or municipalities. Given Itogon's mountainous terrain, and the cost of transportation, such daily travel is not only unsafe but also financially burdensome for families. This reality has contributed to low retention and high dropout rates among learners who face these obstacles.

To address this gap, this bill seeks to convert Virac Elementary School into the Virac Integrated School, thereby establishing a single institution that provides both elementary and secondary education. Upgrading and expanding the school's infrastructure can remove the need for long-distance travel, ensure continuity of education, and provide a safer and more accessible environment for learners.

The measure will also strengthen the government's thrust under Republic Act No. 9155, or the Governance of Basic Education Act of 2001, to make basic education more responsive and equitable, particularly for students in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas.

Thus, the approval of this bill is highly recommended.


HON. ERIC G. YAP

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AN ACT
CONVERTING VIRAC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BARANGAY VIRAC,
MUNICIPALITY OF ITOGON, PROVINCE OF BENGUET INTO AN
INTEGRATED SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS VIRAC INTEGRATED SCHOOL
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. The Virac Elementary School in Barangay Virac, Municipality of Itogon, Province of Benguet is hereby converted into an integrated school to be known as Virac Integrated School.

SEC. 2. All personnel, assets, liabilities, and records of the Virac Elementary School are hereby transferred to and absorbed by the Virac Integrated School.

SEC. 3. The Secretary of Education shall immediately include in the Department's program the operationalization of the Virac Integrated School, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 4. The Secretary of Education shall formulate the rules and regulations implementing the provisions of this Act within one hundred twenty (120) days after its effectivity.

SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,