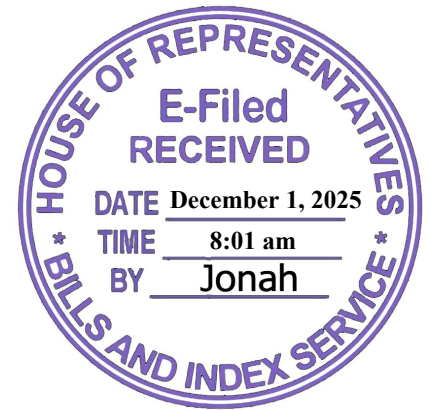




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6472



Introduced by Representative **ANTONINO B. ROMAN III**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Good Manners and Right Conduct (GMRC) and Values Education (VE) are two of the few subjects that every Filipino student must take from Grade 1 to Grade 12. These subjects play a unique national role: they help shape the conscience, character, judgment, and civic responsibility of the next generation. Yet, for decades, the teaching of values in the Philippines has leaned heavily on memorization—of rules, definitions, and lists—rather than on nurturing the ability of young people to think critically about values, understand why they matter, and apply them wisely in real-world situations.

Today, this gap in our education system has become more urgent. Our students navigate a world where they are constantly exposed to misinformation, online manipulation, political and commercial propaganda, and complex moral dilemmas amplified by technology. Simply telling them what values are is no longer enough. They must learn how to examine, evaluate, reason, and decide—skills that allow them to internalize values, not just recite them.

Why a National Center is Needed

This bill establishes the National Center for Critical Thinking in Values Education at the University of the Philippines College of Education, the country's premier institution for teacher training and pedagogical research. The Center is necessary for four reasons:

1. To move GMRC and VE from rote learning to real understanding.

Critical thinking allows students to analyze issues, compare perspectives, question assumptions, and understand the moral trade-offs present in real life.

2. To equip teachers to guide students through the moral and informational challenges of the digital age.

Teachers need modern training, updated materials, and research-based strategies to help students distinguish fact from falsehood and develop independent ethical judgment.

3. To institutionalize and standardize high-quality teacher training nationwide.

A national center ensures that curriculum, teacher training, and materials development follow a unified national standard grounded in research and best practices.

4. To build a long-term hub for research, training, and policy development.

The UP College of Education already has the building blocks of such a center, including a Values Education program, PISA-aligned materials, DepEd lesson development experience, and CHED curriculum work.

What the Center Will Do

The bill mandates the Center to:

- Provide technical expertise to DepEd and CHED in teaching higher-order thinking in GMRC and VE;
- Conduct research to upgrade curriculum, pedagogy, and teacher training;
- Develop a national repository of VE and GMRC policies;
- Produce and disseminate research-based learning materials;
- Assist legislators in crafting education-related policies; and
- Build systems for monitoring teacher training outcomes.

Why This Matters for the Nation

Every major social issue has a moral dimension. A child taught to memorize moral rules may know what is right. But a child taught to think critically about values learns how to live what is right.

By adopting this measure, Congress commits to producing citizens who are ethically grounded, intellectually capable, resistant to misinformation, and prepared for the moral demands of modern society.

Immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Antonino B. Roman III', with a stylized, flowing script.

ANTONINO B. ROMAN III



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HOUSE BILL NO. 6472

Introduced by Representative **ANTONINO B. ROMAN III**

AN ACT
DESIGNATING THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION–UNIVERSITY OF
THE PHILIPPINES, DILIMAN, AS THE COUNTRY’S NATIONAL
CENTER FOR CRITICAL THINKING IN VALUES EDUCATION,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Critical Thinking in Values Education Act of 2025.”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote sustained initiatives to upgrade the quality of education and training of Good Manners and Right Conduct (GMRC) and Values Education (VE) schoolteachers, who are tasked to fulfill the role of developing the intellectual, moral, spiritual, physical, and social well-being of young Filipino citizens. The State recognizes its responsibility to support the development of pedagogical competencies of GMRC and VE schoolteachers, enabling them to effectively prepare their students to fulfill their role as active participants in

nation-building. The State also recognizes the need to create the necessary structures to implement this Act and to allocate sufficient funds to ensure the institution's sustained operation. The State will also prioritize the continuing professional development of GMRC and VE schoolteachers, with an emphasis on advanced teacher training and education, pedagogical innovations, research and publication, policy-making, and community service.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. – As used in this Act:

- (a) “Good Manners and Right Conduct and Values Education schoolteachers” shall refer to the Department of Education teachers of GMRC and VE.
- (b) “Pedagogical competencies” shall refer to the pedagogical knowledge, skills, attitude, values, and practices of GMRC and VE schoolteachers.
- (c) “Nation-building” shall refer to the concerted process of constructing or structuring a national identity and strengthening the institutions of the Philippines to ensure that its citizens are educated, unified, and patriotic.
- (d) “Professional development of GMRC and VE schoolteachers” shall refer to the continuous process of enhancing the pedagogical competencies of GMRC and VE schoolteachers.

SECTION 4. National Center for Critical Thinking in Values Education. – This Act designates the College of Education – University of the Philippines, Diliman as the country’s National Center for Critical Thinking in Values Education. As such, the Center will be administered by the UP College of Education Faculty of Values Education and Philosophy of Education (i.e., specialists, designated professors, curriculum developers, and researchers of VE and GMRC). The Center shall perform the following:

- (a) Provide technical support to the Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) in their programs and projects that chart policies and recommendations on teaching higher-order thinking in GMRC and VE;

- (b) Build and develop a database of GMRC and VE policies to serve as a resource to the country's policy-makers seeking to promote higher-order thinking in GMRC and VE;
- (c) Conduct research and other studies to upgrade pedagogical practices, curricular designs for pre-service teacher preparation, and post-graduate training and education in GMRC and VE;
- (d) Disseminate research findings in different venues (e.g., conference, academic journals, forums, mass media interviews) to make them readily available to teachers, professors, and other researchers of VE and GMRC;
- (e) Generate and upgrade materials for teaching critical thinking and other forms of higher-order thinking in VE and GMRC; and
- (f) As may be directed by Congress, assist the legislators in designing legislative proposals concerning pre-service and in-service teacher training and education, curriculum development, and other similar activities in GMRC and VE.

SECTION 5. Program for the Center of Critical Thinking in Values Education. – The GMRC or VE professors, specialists, and researchers of the UP College of Education shall craft a specialized plan to fulfill the Center's mandate to help develop the education system into one that effectively produces intellectual value-oriented citizens, who will actively contribute to nation-building. The plan shall include a program to create an office equipped to support staff development.

SECTION 6. Monitoring and Evaluation. – The National Center for Critical Thinking in Values Education shall

- (a) Develop measurable indicators to assess teacher training, teacher education, continuing professional education, and alternative modalities for teaching critical thinking in GMRC and VE.

- (b) Submit an annual report to Congress containing progress, challenges, and recommendations for improving teacher training, teacher education, and continuing professional education for critical thinking in GMRC and VE.

SECTION 7. Tax Exemptions. – The provisions of any general or special law to the contrary notwithstanding:

- (a) All revenues and assets of the Center used, actually, directly, and exclusively, in support of its official operations shall be exempt from all taxes and duties;
- (b) Gifts and donations of real and personal properties of all kinds shall be exempt from the donor's tax and the same shall be considered as allowable deductions from the gross income of the donor, in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended: *Provided*, That the allowable deductions shall be equivalent to one hundred fifty percent (150%) of the value of such donation. Valuation of assistance other than money shall be based on the acquisition cost of the property. Such valuation shall take into consideration the depreciated value of property in case said property has been used;
- (c) Importation of books, office supplies, and other materials (e.g., digital learning devices, software) duly certified by the supervising administrators as officially needed by the Center shall be exempt from customs duties;
- (d) The Center shall only pay zero percent (0%) value-added tax for all transactions subject to this tax; and
- (e) All academic monetary rewards shall be exempt from taxes.

SECTION 8. Appropriations. – The amount of Twenty million pesos (Php 20,000,000.00) necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act is hereby appropriated entirely for capital outlay of the Center in addition to the current year's appropriations for the University of the Philippines.

For the succeeding five (5) years, the amount of Ten million pesos (Php 10,000,000.00) shall be appropriated per year in addition to the annual appropriations for capital outlay of the Center.

Thereafter, the amount necessary to sustain the operations of the Center shall be included in the annual appropriations of the University of the Philippines.

SECTION 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the UP College of Education, represented by the professor experts in Values Education, in consultation with the Department of Education and Commission on Higher Education, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations.

SECTION 10. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder shall not be affected.

SECTION 11. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended or repealed accordingly.

SECTION 12. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,