

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. **6513**

**Introduced by Representative JB BERNOS
and Representative CHING BERNOS**

**AN ACT MANDATING THE INCLUSION OF A SEPARATE COURSE ON ETHICS IN
ALL LEVELS OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION, AND IN EVERY
DEGREE PROGRAM IN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 13 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution declares that "the State shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs." Furthermore, Article XIV, Section 3(2) mandates that all educational institutions shall teach "the rights and duties of citizenship, strengthen ethical and spiritual values, develop moral character and personal discipline." These constitutional provisions underscore the vital role of education not only in academic development but also in the moral and ethical formation of citizens.

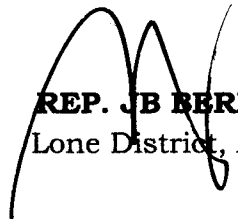
In recent years, the Philippines has faced a growing concern over the erosion of ethical values, public morality, and civic responsibility. Incidents of dishonesty, corruption, and disregard for the rule of law reflect a deeper cultural problem that cannot be solved by legal measures alone but must instead be addressed through value-based education. While current curricula integrate values education within subjects like *Edukasyon sa Pagpapakatao* (EsP) and social studies, there remains a need to institutionalize a separate and dedicated course on Ethics that provides structured, consistent, and contextual moral instruction from elementary to tertiary levels.

This bill seeks to institutionalize the teaching of a distinct subject called Ethics in all elementary and secondary schools, as well as in all degree programs in colleges and universities. The proposed "Isip at Dangal Act" aims to strengthen the moral foundation of Filipino learners by instilling honesty, integrity, and civic responsibility early in life and continuously reinforcing these values through all stages of education. It also introduces a structured framework for ethics education that includes modules on public morality, conflicts of interest, democratic

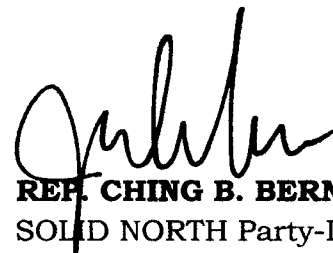
responsibility, and social integration, alongside supplementary studies on the causes and consequences of corruption in the Philippines and worldwide.

Moreover, this measure recognizes that ethics is not merely a philosophical concept but a practical discipline that guides decision-making, strengthens governance, and promotes national unity. By integrating professional ethics in all degree programs, such as medical ethics, legal ethics, and military ethics, the bill ensures that Filipino professionals uphold moral standards consistent with their field of practice and public trust.

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



REP. JB BERNOS
Lone District, Abra



REP. CHING B. BERNOS
SOLID NORTH Party-List

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Isip at Dangal Act.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to inculcate and strengthen the ethics and values of its citizens through the educational system.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. – For the purpose of this Act, the following terms are defined:

- (a) Ethics - refers to the conformity to the accepted, honorable, and professional standards of conduct in government and in private life;
- (b) Values - refers to normative standards which influence human beings in their choice among their alternative courses of action;
- (c) Elementary Education – refers to the second stage of compulsory basic education which is composed of six (6) years. The entrant age to this level is typically six (6) years old;
- (d) Bridge Program – refers to an intensive one-year program focused on three foundation subjects namely English, Science, and Math. It enables students to become fully prepared for secondary education curriculum;
- (e) Secondary Education – refers to the third stage of compulsory basic education. It consists of four (4) year junior high school education and two (2) years of senior high school education. The entrant age to the junior and

senior high school levels are typically twelve (12) and sixteen (16) years old, respectively; and

- (f) University – refers to all institutions for higher learning with teaching and research facilities constituting a graduate school and professional schools that award master's degrees and doctorates and an undergraduate division that awards bachelor's degrees.

SEC. 4. Compulsory Teaching a Separate Subject Called Ethics. – The teaching of a separate subject called Ethics shall be compulsory at all levels of: elementary education; bridge program; secondary education; and in all degree programs offered by colleges and universities. All colleges and universities shall provide a compulsory 3-unit Ethics course for every profession, e.g., Legal Ethics for law schools, Medical Ethics for medical schools, Military Ethics for the Philippine Military Academy and other military schools, etc.

SEC. 5. Ethics and Values Formation Syllabus.

5.1 Public Morality. – A. The main syllabus should include the following six levels of public morality:

- (a) Basic Honest and Conformity to Law. – This level describes the basic adherence to the constitution, laws, ordinances, and moral codes that is expected from all members of a group or society;
- (b) Conflicts of Interest. – This level deals with the conflict between advancing the public interest which a public official is charged to do, and advancing one's self-interest;
- (c) Service Orientation and Procedural Fairness. – This level deals with the responsibility of public officials to ensure that their actions serve the public and that the power they wield is used only for that purpose. This concentrates on procedural safeguards to prevent abuse of authority and on moral obligation of public servants;
- (d) Ethics of Democratic Responsibility. – This level deals with the public officials, either elected or appointed, to make moral choices consistent with their own values and will of the people;
- (e) Ethics of Public Policy Determination. – This level concerns making moral judgments about public policies in which equity and fairness are important considerations;
- (f) Ethics of Compromise and Social Integration. – This level entails the necessity of give and take, and compromise in a society with irreconcilable differences on fundamental issues.

5.2 Supplementary Topics. – The curriculum should have additional topics and studies on the causes, issues, and effects of graft and corruption in the Philippines and in other parts of the world, and suggested measures to reform a corrupt environment.

5.3 Other Subject Matters. – Other areas of Ethics and Values formation may be included in the syllabus, provided that it will not be made in preference of any religion and belief, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.

SEC. 6. Educational Materials. – It shall be obligatory on all schools, colleges, and universities to keep in their libraries an adequate number of copies of the textbooks, primers, and leaflets on Ethics to be issued by the DepEd and the CHED. The DepEd and CHED shall determine the adequacy of the number of books, depending upon the enrollment of the school, college, or university.

SEC. 7. Implementing Agencies. – The Secretary of Education and the Commissioners of CHED are hereby authorized and directed to adopt a system to implement and carry out the provisions of this Act. The Secretary of Education and the CHED Commissioners shall, within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, promulgate the rules and regulations, including those of a disciplinary nature, to carry out and enforce the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Education and the Commissioners of CHED shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations, including those of a disciplinary nature, to carry out and enforce the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 9. Separability Clause. – If any portions or provisions of this Act are declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining portions or provisions not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 10. Repealing Clause. – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, memoranda, circulars, and other issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,