



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



TWENTIETH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. **8053**

Introduced by: **Representative JERRY EVANGELISTA PEREZ**

2nd District, Zamboanga City

Representative KATRINA REIKO CHUA - TAI

1st District, Zamboanga City

AN ACT

**CONVERTING VICTORIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BARANGAY VICTORIA,
ZAMBOANGA CITY INTO AN INTEGRATED SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE
VICTORIA INTEGRATED SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In no uncertain terms, the Constitution of 1987 declares that the State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels. It shall make such education accessible to all. It also mandates free public elementary and secondary education. This constitutional command is neither ornamental nor aspirational. It is a binding duty that requires the government to take concrete and sustained action. No Filipino child should be deprived of the opportunity to learn by reason of poverty, distance, or neglect.

Despite reforms in basic education, major challenges persist. Learning gaps, student attrition, crowded classrooms, and poor infrastructure continue to harm public schools. These problems are worse in remote communities. There, families lack resources and essential services. In these areas, the right to education, although guaranteed by law, is often unreachable due to circumstances.

Zamboanga City shows the strengths and challenges of public basic education. The Schools Division serves over 200,000 students, mostly in public schools, and manages more than 200 institutions from elementary to senior high school levels. Rising enrollment signals public trust but strains facilities. Many schools exceed capacity, use shifting schedules, or rely on temporary learning spaces. Some buildings need repairs and upgrades to meet standards. Despite the commitment of teachers and administrators, these structural issues affect the quality and continuity of instruction.

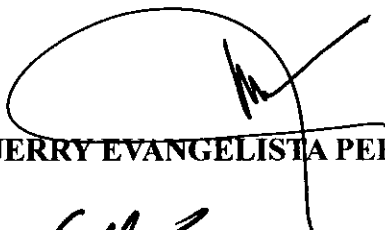
Barangay Victoria, in the Second Legislative District of Zamboanga City, faces these challenges. Victoria Elementary School serves the community's young learners. But students who wish to continue to higher grades must often travel long distances. For families with modest incomes, the cost and burden of daily travel are heavy. These difficulties lead to absenteeism and, at times, early withdrawal from school. Each statistic represents a child with limited opportunity and a family fighting for a better future.

This measure aims to address these challenges by converting Victoria Elementary School into Victoria Integrated School. Expanding its mandate will enable it to offer a comprehensive basic education program under unified administration. This will give students accessible, continuous educational opportunities within their communities. Key benefits include improved resource use, reduced classroom congestion in nearby schools, and smoother academic progression across grade levels.

This proposed conversion reinforces a core constitutional principle: access to education should not depend on geography or economic status. It affirms that children in Barangay Victoria deserve the same quality teachers, facilities, and academic programs as those in central areas. By bringing secondary education closer to home, the State reduces transportation costs, reduces the risk of dropout, and supports consistent attendance. It ensures students can pursue their studies with dignity, stability, and equal academic opportunity.

Converting Victoria Elementary School into an Integrated School is not simply a structural change. It fulfills the State's constitutional duty to make quality education truly accessible to all. By strengthening basic education in Barangay Victoria, this measure supports human capital development in Zamboanga City. It advances the national goal of inclusive and equitable progress.

IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



JERRY EVANGELISTA PEREZ



KATRINA REIKO CHUA - TAI



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 8058

Introduced by: **Representative JERRY EVANGELISTA PEREZ**
2nd District, Zamboanga City
Representative KATRINA REIKO CHUA - TAI
1st District, Zamboanga City

AN ACT
CONVERTING VICTORIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BARANGAY VICTORIA,
ZAMBOANGA CITY INTO AN INTEGRATED SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE
VICTORIA 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 Victoria Elementary School in Barangay Victoria, Zamboanga City, is hereby converted into an integrated school to be known as the Victoria Integrated School.

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

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

SECTION 4. Within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act, the Secretary of Education shall formulate the rules and regulations implementing the provisions of this Act. Such implementing rules and regulations shall provide for the school's organization, administration, operations, and management, in accordance with Republic Act No. 9155, or the "Governance of Basic Education Act of 2001", Republic Act No. 10533, or the "Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013", and other basic education-related laws.

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

Approved,