

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session



16 JUN 15 2012

SENATE
S.B. No. 1022

BY: 

Introduced by Senator Poe

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE "ABOT ALAM" PROGRAM OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Explanatory Note

Article XIV, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution provides that "The State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels, and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all." Much progress has been done to implement this constitutional imperative. As of 2014, 92.57% of school-aged children are in elementary school, with an 82.66% completion rate.¹ Enrolment and completion rates have reached 83.77% and 76.88% in 2014, in the same period.²

These outputs show that we are only a few steps away from providing universal basic education to all Filipinos. Obviously, 100% enrolment, 100% completion and 100% basic literacy are the standards we should strive for. To achieve this, we should not only invest in improving our formal education system but also strengthen interventions for those who fall between the cracks- the out-of-school youths and adults who neither underwent nor completed basic education.

As a first step, the Department of Education created the "Abot Alam" program. According to DepEd, Abot-Alam is a convergence program that is being undertaken by a

¹ Education Nation. "The State of Philippine Education"

² *Ibid.*

consortium of various national government agencies, and non-government organizations (NGOs) and institutions under the leadership of DepEd and the National Youth Commission (NYC) to locate and serve out-of-school youth (OSY) nationwide and who have not completed basic/higher education or who are unemployed. It reached one million beneficiaries in 2015 and was allocated Php 100 million in the 2016 General Appropriations Act.

This measure humbly seeks to institutionalize the “Abot Alam” program and expand it to include adults who have neither undergone nor completed basic education. It also establishes a Barangay Abot Alam Targeting System to collect information and monitor all out-of-school youths. Finally, it prescribes the various modalities of the Abot Alam Program.

Speedy approval of this measure is eagerly sought.


GRACE POE

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title***- This Act shall be known as the “*Abot Alam Act of 2016*”

2
3 **SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy***. It is a policy of the State to protect and promote
4 the right of all citizens, especially the poor and the marginalized, to quality education at all
5 levels. Furthermore, the State recognizes the essential role of education in promoting a just and
6 dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free
7 the people from poverty. Therefore, the “*Abot Alam*” program of the Department of Education
8 is hereby institutionalized and recognized as a means to provide education to out-of-school
9 youths, adults who have neither undergone nor completed basic education, and to other
10 individuals who cannot be adequately served by the formal educational system.

11
12 **SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms***. As used in this Act, the following terms shall be
13 defined as follows:

- 14 a) “*Abot Alam*” refers to the “*Abot Alam*” program of the Department of Education
15 which is institutionalized under Section 4 of this Act;
16
17 b) “*Abot Alam Enlisted Learners*” or “*Enlisted Learners*” refers to individuals,
18 whether out-of-school youths or adults who have neither undergone nor completed

1 basic education, who are enrolled in any of the components of the Abot Alam
2 Program.

3
4 c) "*Abot Alam Partner*" or "*Partners*" refers to individuals, groups, organizations or
5 agencies (e.g. LGUs, NGOs, private institutions/companies, religious groups, etc.)
6 implementing the Abot Alam Program in different areas using their own resources
7 and/or which provide technical assistance or other resources in support of the
8 Program at any level;

9
10 d) "*Barangay Abot Alam Targeting System*" or "*Targeting System*" refers to the
11 comprehensive database of OSY established under Section 5 of this Act.

12
13 e) "*Alternative Delivery Modes*", as defined and adopted from Department of
14 Education Order No. 54, s. 2012, refers to alternative modalities of delivering
15 education which allows schools to deliver quality education to marginalized
16 students and those at risk of dropping out in order to help them overcome personal,
17 social and economic constraints in their schooling. It shall include, without
18 limitation, the following:

- 19
20 1. Enhanced Instructional Management Parents, Communities and Teachers
21 (E-IMPACT);
22
23 2. Modified In-School Off-School Approach (MISOSA); and
24
25 3. Open High School Program (OHSP)

26
27 f) "*Alternative Learning System*" as defined and adopted from Republic Act No.
28 9155, otherwise known as the Governance of Basic Education Act of 2001, is a
29 parallel learning system to provide a viable alternative to the existing formal
30 education instruction. It encompasses both the non-formal and informal sources of
31 knowledge and skills;

32
33 g) "*Out-of-School Youth*" or "OSY" refers to individuals who are 7 to 24 years of age
34 who are not enrolled in formal schooling.

1
2 **SECTION 4. *Institutionalization of the Abot Alam Program-*** there is hereby
3 established a nationwide program to be known as the “Abot Alam” Program, herein referred to
4 as “the Program”.

5
6 **SECTION 5. *Objectives-*** The Program aims to:

- 7
- 8 a) Create a comprehensive database of OSY in the country by organizing a
9 Barangay Abot Alam Targeting System;
 - 10
 - 11 b) Unify and harmonize the efforts and resources of all agencies and organizations
12 directed towards providing education and training for OSY in the Country;
 - 13
 - 14 c) Ensure that all OSYs have access to programs and services of different agencies
15 and organizations;
 - 16
 - 17 d) Integrate adults who have neither undergone nor completed formal education in
18 the Program;
 - 19

20 **SECTION 6. *Coverage-*** the Act shall cover:

- 21
- 22 a) Out-of-School Youths;
 - 23
 - 24 b) Marginalized students who are at risk of dropping out; and
 - 25
 - 26 c) Adults who have neither undergone nor finished basic education.
 - 27

28 **SECTION 7. *Barangay Abot Alam Targeting System-*** A comprehensive database of
29 OSYs in the country is hereby established. The targeting system shall be based on information
30 collected and updated by Barangays on OSYs in their jurisdiction, in coordination with the
31 relevant Public Schools District Supervisors and School Heads. The database shall be updated
32 annually and shall include information such as one’s name, age, location, and learning needs.
33 All information shall be submitted to and consolidated by the Philippine Statistics Authority.
34

1 Existing enrollees of the Program need not be included in the database.

2
3 **SECTION 8. *Components-*** The Program shall have three (3) modalities:

4
5 a.) ALS-Education- a community-based ALS program which helps Enlisted Learners
6 to acquire basic reading, writing, numeracy skills and the ability to read with
7 comprehension and solve simple numeracy problems.

8
9 Enlisted Learners under this program shall undergo an accreditation and
10 equivalency test before and after the program duration which will measures their
11 learning competency. Passers of the test are shall be given a diploma certifying their
12 competencies as comparable graduates of the formal school system and shall be
13 considered qualified to enroll secondary and post-secondary schools.

14
15 This program shall be implemented by the Department of Education, in
16 coordination with interested Partners.

17
18 b.) ALS-Entrepreneurship- an ALS program which provides livelihood and
19 entrepreneurship training and assistance to Enlisted Learners. This shall be a joint
20 program of the Department of Education and Department of Trade and Industry, in
21 coordination with interested Partners.

22
23 c.) ALS Technical-Vocational and Employment Program- an ALS program which
24 provides technical-vocational skills training to Enlisted Learners. This shall be a
25 joint program of the Department of Education and Technical and Vocational
26 Education and Skills Development Authority in coordination with interested
27 Partners.

28
29 **SECTION 9. *Utilization of Alternative Delivery Modes-*** The Department of Education
30 and concerned Partners shall, in addition to formal, school-based modes of delivering
31 education, shall maximize the utilization of Alternative Delivery Modes of education.

32
33 **SECTION 10. *Program Implementation-*** DepEd Division Offices, in consultation with
34 all concerned Partners, shall map and provide information on all of the ALS programs of

1 intervention that they are offering in their jurisdiction and match the needs of Enlisted Learners
2 with the available programs mapped;

3
4 **SECTION 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations-*** Within thirty (30) days from the
5 effectivity of this Act, the Department of Education, Technical Education and Skills
6 Development Authority, and the Department of Trade and Industry, in consultation with
7 relevant government agencies and partners, shall promulgate the rules and regulations for the
8 effective regulation of this Act.

9
10 **SECTION 12. *Appropriations-*** An amount of Ten Million Pesos (Php 10,000,000.00)
11 is hereby allocated for the initial implementation of this act. Such amounts as may be necessary
12 for the continuing implementation of this Act shall be included as a separate line-item under
13 the appropriations of the Department of Education under the General Appropriations Act and
14 may be augmented by grants, donations and endowments from domestic and foreign sources,
15 pursuant to existing laws and regulations.

16
17 **SECTION 13. *Separability Clause-*** If any provision of this Act shall be held
18 unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force
19 and effect.

20
21 **SECTION 14. *Repealing Clause-*** All laws, executive orders, rules and regulations
22 inconsistent with or contrary to this Act, are hereby deemed accordingly repealed or amended.

23
24 **SECTION 15. *Effectivity Clause-*** This Act shall take effect upon its approval and
25 completion of publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

26
27 Approved,
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