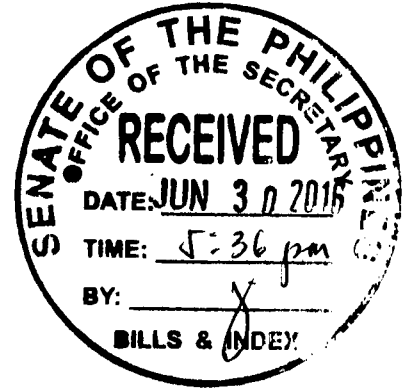


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



SENATE
S.B. No. 172

Introduced by: Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE ABOT ALAM PROGRAM

EXPLANATORY NOTE

At the age of 78, Miguel Lajos is graduating with a degree in AB Political Science from the University of the Visayas-Dalaguete.

"It is never too late," he tells people.

Miguel Lajos is not alone in his aspiration to continue schooling and earn a degree but, like him, too many Filipinos are faced with challenges such as poverty that impede on their education.

The Abot Alam Bill seeks to effectively address the needs of the fast growing numbers of Filipino youth aged 7 to 24 who are not attending school.

This measure calls for the creation of a comprehensive national framework designed to achieve the government's aim to provide education for each and every Filipino.

Targeting the out-of-school (OSY), including those who are at risk of dropping out and those who have never had any formal schooling, the Abot Alam program has the following directives:

- 1) Data banking to enable the government to know the total percentage of OSY in the country and where these OSY are through the Barangay Abot Alam Targeting System;
- 2) A program mapping system to ensure that the initiatives and resources of all government agencies, non-government organizations and institutions, volunteer groups, and all other sectors mandated to solving the challenges of OSY in the country are cohesive and efficient;
- 3) A focus on reintegration and equal opportunity through the program matching system so that all OSY are given equal access to programs and services of partner agencies and institutions.

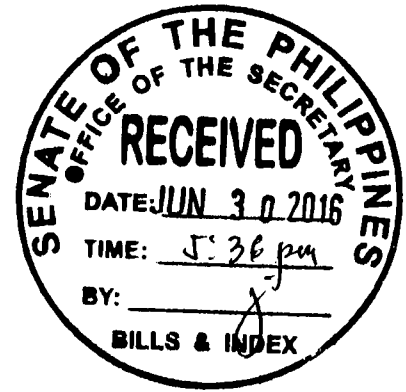
At the heart of this policy is every Filipino's right to quality education and we are hopeful that this policy moves us forward to an era where all our countrymen are empowered by education.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bam Aquino". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV

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AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE ABOT ALAM PROGRAM

Be it enacted by the Senate and 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 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** — The State shall protect and promote the right of all
3 citizens to quality education at all levels, and shall take appropriate steps to make such
4 education accessible to all:

5 (a) The State shall establish, maintain and support a complete, adequate, and
6 integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the people, the country
7 and society-at-large;

8 (b) The State shall encourage non-formal, informal and indigenous learning systems,
9 as well as self-learning, independent and out-of-school study programs
10 particularly those that respond to community needs;

11 (c) The State shall provide adult citizens, the disabled, and out-of-school youth with
12 training in civics, vocational efficiency, and other skills.

13 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** — As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

14 (a) *Out-of-school youth (OSY)* - are individuals who are 7 to 24 years of age who are
15 not enrolled in formal schooling.

16 (b) *Abot Alam Enlisted Learners* - are individuals who are enrolled in any of the
17 components under the Abot Alam Program. They may be OSY or adults who have
18 not finished basic education.

19 (c) *Abot Alam Partner* - refers to an individual, group, organization or agency (e.g.
LGUs, NGOs, private institutions/companies, religious groups, etc.) implementing
the Abot Alam Program in different areas using their own resources and/or

1 provides technical assistance or other resources in support of the Program at any
2 level.

3 (d) *Alternative Learning System (ALS)* - is a parallel learning system to provide a viable
4 alternative to the existing formal education instruction. It encompasses both the
5 non-formal and informal sources of knowledge and skills.

6 **SEC. 4. Coverage.** — This Act shall cover out-of-school youth, marginalized students
7 who are at risk of dropping out/becoming OSY, and adults who have not finished basic
8 education.

9 **SEC. 5. Abot Alam Program.** — There is hereby established a nationwide program,
10 hereinafter referred to as the Program, institutionalizing an alternative means of
11 educating and training those covered by this Act.

12 **SEC. 6. Objectives.** — The Program aims to:

13 (a) Create a comprehensive database of OSY in the country by organizing a Barangay
14 Abot Alam Targeting System;

15 (b) Unify the efforts and resources of all agencies and organizations directed towards
16 providing education and training for OSY in the country;

17 (c) Ensure that all OSY have access to programs and services of different agencies and
18 organizations;

19 (d) Integrate adults who want to finish school or be trained in entrepreneurship
20 and/or employment in the non-formal and informal education system.

21 **SEC. 7. Barangay Abot Alam Targeting System.** — A comprehensive database of OSY
22 in the country shall be created through the information that will be gathered by each
23 Barangay Local Government Unit (BLGU) in coordination with the Public Schools
24 District Supervisors (PSDS) and the School Heads. The database shall include such
25 information as the name, age, location, learning needs, and other pertinent data of
26 the OSY. All information shall be consolidated by the Philippine Statistics Authority
27 (PSA).

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

29 **SEC. 8. Alternative Learning Systems.** — The Program shall have three (3) main
30 Alternative Learning Systems as its components:

31 (a) ALS-Education — is an Alternative Learning System providing:

32 (1) Basic Literacy — a community-based program for illiterate OSY and adults to
33 acquire basic reading, writing, and numeracy skills or the ability to read with
34 comprehension or solve simple numeracy problems. This shall be

1 implemented by the Department of Education (DepEd) in partnership with
2 relevant Abot Alam Partners.

3 (2) Accreditation and Equivalency - a certification program that recognizes prior
4 learning and is equivalent to the formal basic (elementary and secondary)
5 education. This shall be implemented by the DepEd in partnership with
6 relevant Abot Alam Partners.

7 (3) Alternative Delivery Mode - a nontraditional education program applying
8 flexible learning philosophies and curricular delivery to address the learning
9 needs of marginalized students who are at risk of dropping out and becoming
10 OSY. This shall be implemented by the DepEd in partnership with relevant Abot
11 Alam Partners.

12 (4) Tech/Voc – a technical-vocational courses and/or skill training program. This
13 shall be implemented by the Technical Education and Skills Development
14 Authority (TESDA) in partnership with relevant Abot Alam Partners.

15 (b) ALS-Entrepreneurship – an Alternative Learning System providing livelihood
16 training and other entrepreneurship assistance. This shall be implemented by the
17 Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) in partnership with relevant Abot Alam
18 Partners.

19 (c) ALS-Employment – an Alternative Learning System providing skills training and
20 other employment assistance. This shall be implemented by the Department of
21 Labor and Employment (DOLE) in partnership with relevant Abot Alam Partners.

22 **SEC. 9. Program Mapping.** — The DepEd Division Offices (DO) in consultation with all
23 participating agencies and organization shall map all the programs of intervention that
24 these groups may offer for the OSY.

25 **SEC. 10. Program Matching.** — The DepEd DOs shall match the OSY's learning needs
26 obtained from the Barangay Abot Alam Targeting System with the available programs
27 mapped. Each OSY may be enrolled in more than one program.

28 **SEC. 11. Program Implementation.** — The relevant ALS Partner shall implement the
29 appropriate Abot Alam program for the Abot Alam Enlisted Learners matched for the
30 program.

31 **SEC. 12. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** — Within sixty (60) days from the
32 effectivity of this Act, the Department of Education (DepEd), Technical Education and
33 Skills Development Authority (TESDA), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI),
34 the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), and other relevant government
35 agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective
36 implementation of this Act.

1 **SEC. 13. Appropriations.** — The funds needed to implement this Act shall be included
2 in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

3 **SEC. 14. Separability Clause.** — Should any provision herein be declared
4 unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of the other provisions of this
5 Act.

6 **SEC. 15. Repealing Clause.** — All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or other
7 issuances or parts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or
8 modified accordingly.

9 **SEC. 16. Effectivity.** — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
10 in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the
11 Philippines.

12 Approved,