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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE
H. No. 2179

Introduced by Representative **VILMA SANTOS-RECTO**
6th District of Batangas

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE UTILIZATION OF INFORMATION AND
COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) IN ALL PUBLIC ELEMENTARY
SCHOOLS AND HIGH SCHOOLS PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

Explanatory Note

The advent of the internet can be likened to the invention of Guttenberg's printing press. Similar to how the printing press ushered in the human race from the Dark Ages to the New Age, the internet is ushering humankind into a world unhampered by borders. Modern Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) such as Wi-Fi, mobile phones, computers, and laptops allow easier and faster access to timely information which is necessary in a rapidly globalizing and competitive world.

"(ICTs) greatly facilitate the acquisition and absorption of knowledge, offering developing countries unprecedented opportunities to enhance educational systems, improve policy formulation and execution, and widen the range of opportunities for business and the poor. One of the greatest hardships endured by the poor, and by many others who live in the poorest countries is their sense of isolation. The new communication technologies promise to reduce that sense of isolation, and to open access to knowledge in ways unimaginable not long ago."

- World Bank (1998), *The World Development Report* quoted in Blurton, C., *New Directions of ICT – Use in Education*

In line with the goals set forth in the country's K to 12 Program, particularly for the secondary level, the utilization of modern technology would better equip students with faculties necessary in preparation for tertiary education and for the increasingly competitive labor market.

As of School Year 2012-2013, the number of students enrolled in the country's 38,659 elementary public schools was at 13.3 million, while students enrolled in the 7,745 elementary private schools was at 1.2M¹. Meanwhile, enrollment in the country's 7,748 secondary public schools was at 5.6 million, and for the 5,130 secondary private schools it was at 1.4 million². Many of the private schools in the country have long since supplemented classroom learning with ICT such as the use of computers and multimedia projectors for a more effective and efficient learning experience. They have also incorporated computer and internet education in their curricula while public schools have to wrestle with dated computers that are not even commensurate to the number of students enrolled in public schools.

¹ Department of Education Basic Education Fact Sheet as of October 2013

² Ibid.

Computer and internet literacy is hard currency in most industries and in today's labor market. Students who do not have access to computers and to the internet could potentially have slim chances of securing a job as opposed to students in most private schools who have had experience with ICT and training in search, retrieval and processing of information sourced from the internet.

The internet and computer use are part and parcel of globalization where the youth is undoubtedly at the forefront. The burgeoning youth population of the country grapple with the ever increasing qualifications of landing a job and limiting them from fully harnessing the capabilities that ICT offers will surely leave them lagging behind in personal growth and in the labor market.

With a rapidly digitizing world, it is imperative that traditional learning methods be supplemented with ICT to allow more efficient learning in classrooms. Equipping public schools with computers and internet is a challenge that not just means being at par with counterparts in private schools—but it is about giving students in public secondary schools equal opportunity to make use of ICT, which is a growing need in today's society. Providing public schools with ICT is not the sole solution to problems of unemployment, but is a definite step to ensuring that the Filipino youth is competitive in the rapidly changing world characterized by the introduction of new technologies that lead to a “knowledge-based economy” where education drives growth, increases productivity, and creates jobs.

In light of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



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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 “ICT in Education Act of
2 2016”.

3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy and Objectives.** – It shall be the policy of the State to
4 provide quality education that is accessible to all citizens. Furthermore, the State shall also
5 establish and maintain an education system that is relevant to the needs of society.

6 This Act shall attain the following objectives:

- 7 A. Provide public schools with up-to-date computer facilities including a stable wireless
8 network and equipment necessary for easier access to information;
- 9 B. Train educators to supplement traditional classroom learning with Information and
10 Communication Technology (ICT);
- 11 C. Replace out-dated textbooks with up-to-date electronic books; and
- 12 D. Have an online shared curriculum among public schools to ensure that students even
13 in rural areas will be given the same quality of education.

14 **SEC. 3. ICT in Public Elementary Schools and High Schools.** – The Department of
15 Education (DepEd) shall use appropriate and effective ICT in public schools to broaden access to
16 basic education, improve the quality of learning, enhance the quality of teaching, and improve
17 educational planning and management.

18 **SEC. 4. Physical and Technological Infrastructure.** – Within a period of six (6) years, all
19 public schools shall establish at least one (1) Computer Center with a stable internet connection
20 that will provide and ensure the access of students to the internet. The schools shall avail of the
21 services of existing commercial internet providers and shall establish and maintain a computer
22 facility system which should have, at the minimum, the following equipment:

- 1 A. Desktop Personal Computer (PC);
- 2 B. Wireless Broadband Router;
- 3 C. Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS);
- 4 D. Computer Printer; and
- 5 E. Multimedia Projector

6 The number of computer units for the Computer Center of each public school will be
7 based on the standards provided for by the DepEd in consultation with the Department of
8 Information and Communications Technology (DICT) and with each respective public school.

9 **SEC. 5. *Training for Educators and Maintenance of ICT.*** – The Regional Offices of the
10 DepEd and the DICT shall carry out training for educators in public schools to integrate ICT in
11 classroom learning, to instill in educators the professional and educational benefits of investment
12 in ICT, and to allow educators to have mastery of sourcing out appropriate resources for
13 education.

14 The aforementioned agencies shall monitor the use and upkeep of the ICT introduced in
15 public schools.

16 **SEC. 6. *Utilization of ICT in Classroom Learning and in Computer Centers.*** – Educators
17 in public schools shall make full use of ICT as presentation tools to complement traditional
18 teaching methods. Presentation tools may include, but shall not be limited to, multimedia
19 projectors, television and guided internet surfing where the educator and the students will be able
20 to view internet sites simultaneously.

21 Computer Centers in public schools should be made available to students for training on
22 computer and internet use, and for research purposes.

23 **SEC. 7. *Computerization of Administrative Systems.*** – The DepEd with the technical
24 assistance of the DICT shall develop an ICT-based administrative system that will enhance
25 organizational communication; facilitate gathering, analysis, dissemination, and maintenance of
26 educational statistics; and streamline office procedures.

27 **SEC. 8. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary for the immediate implementation of
28 the provisions of this Act is hereby authorized to be appropriated out of any funds in the National
29 Treasury not otherwise appropriated. Thereafter, funds for its implementation shall be included
30 in the regular appropriations of the Department of Education.

31 **SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*** – The Department of Education and the
32 Department of Information and Communications Technology shall, within thirty (30) days from
33 the effectivity of this Act, issue the necessary rules and regulations for its effective
34 implementation.

35 **SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.*** – In the event that any provision of this Act is declared
36 unconstitutional, the validity of the other provisions shall not be affected by such declaration.

37 **SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, or portions
38 thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

1 **SEC. 12. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its
2 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation or in the *Official Gazette*.

Approved,