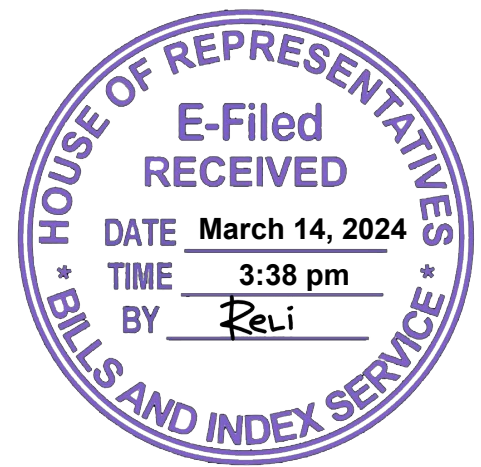


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
2nd Regular Session

House Bill No. 10156



Introduced by Representative PAOLO Z. DUTERTE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Among the priority of legislative measures of government is the E-Governance Bill, which manifests the need to capitalize on the country's digital infrastructure following the gradual transition of various government agencies' mode of services through digital platforms. In fact, following the prevalence of the COVID-19 pandemic which highly relied on digital transactions, such resort has already been institutionalized to various areas of transactions in the country such as banking, commerce, and learning, to name a few.

Quality and accessible education, as one's fundamental right, is among the priority of the state. During the COVID-19 pandemic where there is great shift in learning modalities, digital infrastructure has played the important role in facilitating learning. In those times where the norm of a classroom-setting education has been temporarily abandoned, we have witnessed all over the news the difficulty of teachers in catering to the needs of their students especially in far-flung and rural areas—making access to education intensively difficult. What exacerbated the said situation is the lack of educational resources such as physical libraries, reading materials, and digital learning tools.

Hence, in pursuit of mitigating the inaccessibility to education especially in far-flung areas, this bill seeks to establish the Ebooks for Barangay Program which will increase the access to educational resources and improve digital literacy among students in every barangay in the country.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'PAOLO Z. DUTERTE', written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

HON. PAOLO Z. DUTERTE

Republic of the Philippines
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NINETEENTH CONGRESS
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House Bill No. **10156**

Introduced by Representative PAOLO Z. DUTERTE

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE EBOOKS FOR THE BARANGAY PROGRAM, PROVIDING
FUNDS THEREOF

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the “*Ebooks for the Barangay Program Act of 2024.*”

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

SEC. 3. *Establishment of the Ebooks for the Barangay Program.* - There is hereby established a nationwide program to be known as the "Ebooks for the Barangay Program" under the Department of Education (DepEd). This program aims to provide each barangay with access to free and curated digital learning resources that support the academic needs of its residents.

SEC. 4. *Program Components.* - The Ebooks for the Barangay Program shall include the following components:

- a) Digital library platform - This shall provide a secure and organized database of digital learning resources, including e-books, video lectures, simulations, and other relevant materials, in various fields of study and in languages suitable for the local community.
- b) Devices distribution - The program shall facilitate the provision of electronic devices, such as tablets or e-readers, to ensure access to digital library resources for all barangays, particularly in areas with limited internet access.

- c) Capacity building - DepEd shall coordinate workshops and training programs to enhance digital literacy among barangay residents and develop skills in using e-resources.
- d) Monitoring and evaluation - Periodic assessment and data collection shall be carried out to measure the program's success and inform its continuous improvement.

SEC. 5. *Funding.* - The necessary funding for the implementation of this Act shall be sourced from the DepEd's share in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

SEC. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The DepEd, in coordination with pertinent government instrumentalities, shall develop the implementing rules and regulations, within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.* - Any portion or provisions of this Act that may be declared unconstitutional or invalid and shall not have the effect of nullifying other portions or provisions hereof as long as such remaining portions or provisions can still subsist and be given effect in their entirety.

SEC 8. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, memoranda, circulars, and other issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. *Effectivity Clause.* -This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,