

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10122, May 27, 2010]

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE LITERACY COORDINATING COUNCIL BY AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7165, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT CREATING THE LITERACY COORDINATING COUNCIL, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

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

SECTION 1. Republic Act No. 7165 is hereby amended as follows:

"SECTION 1. It is hereby declared to be the policy of the State to give the highest priority to the adoption of measures for the universalization of literacy.

"Toward this end, it shall encourage and rationalize the formulation of policies and the implementation of programs on nonformal, informal, and indigenous learning systems, as well as self- learning, independent, and out-of-school study programs particularly those that respond to community needs.

"The State shall institutionalize an inter- agency coordinating and advisory body to synchronize and strengthen policies and efforts toward the universalization of literacy."

"SEC. 2. To carry out the declared national policy, there is hereby created a Literacy Coordinating Council, hereinafter referred to as the Council, which shall be an inter-agency body administratively attached to the Department of Education."

"SEC. 3. The Council shall be composed of the following members:

"(a) The Secretary of the Department of Education (DepED), as the Chairperson, who may designate an undersecretary as his/her permanent representative;

"(b) The Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) or his/her duly designated representative;

"(c) The President of the Philippine Normal University (PNU) or his/her duly designated representative;

"(d) The Director General of the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) or his/her duly designated representative;

"(e) The Director General of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) or his/her duly designated representative;

"(f) The Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Education, Arts and Culture or his/her duly designated representative;

"(g) The Chairperson of the House of Representatives Committee on Basic Education and Culture or his/her duly designated representative; and

"(h) A representative from the network of nongovernment organizations (NGOs) involved in the propagation of literacy.

"The Council shall approve and confirm the appointment of the NGO representative, who shall serve for a period of three (3) years, and who may be reappointed for another term.

"The Council shall meet regularly and may hold special meetings to consider urgent matters upon the call of the Chairperson or any five (5) Council members."

"SEC. 4. The duly designated representatives to the Literacy Coordinating Council shall be afforded equal opportunity to vote and participate in any deliberation during meetings of the Council.

"Likewise, they shall be afforded, whenever necessary, reimbursement of any actual expenses incurred during council-related functions and duties, subject to the provisions of existing law and/or pertinent rules and regulations."

"SEC. 5. The Council shall have the following powers and functions:

"(a) Act as the overall advisory and coordinating body, providing policy and program directions for all literacy endeavors in the country;

"(b) Engage the services, expertise and resources including, but not limited to, cooperation, assistance and support of appropriate government agencies or NGOs involved in literacy;

"(c) Recommend strategies on the development of a mass movement for the promotion of life skills and education towards the universalization of literacy;

"(d) Formulate measures on the monitoring and evaluation of the literacy situation in the country, including the