

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

House Bill No. **3461**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE PIA S. CAYETANO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Education has always been at the forefront of Philippine executive and legislative agenda. The national budget for the Department of Education (DepEd) for the coming 2017 fiscal year amounts to P567.6 billion, which is the largest allocation submitted by the present administration to the Philippine Congress, with a P134.18 billion increase from last year's budget for the said agency.

Clearly, education is this administration's top priority.

However, significant shortages and backlogs still exist in the number of schools to be constructed nationwide. And nowhere is the tragedy of poverty more painfully experienced than in connection with the lack of quality and accessible education. It has been reported that "as more families (have) become poorer, more students are enrolling in public schools, particularly high school," which trend, according to concerned organized groups, "has exerted tremendous pressure on the smaller number of high schools."¹

No less than the 1987 Philippine Constitution recognizes the right to education as a basic right that must be afforded to all citizens, particularly the nation's children. To prevent further entrenchment of social inequalities and foster unhampered national development and growth, the Constitution rightly mandates the government to provide for "a system of free public education in the elementary and high school levels." (Section 2, par. 2, Article XIV of the 1987 Philippine Constitution)

Despite this, the country's problem of inadequacy of public educational institutions continues to persist, a situation which the government must immediately address lest the nation's youth become further entrenched in the quagmires of illiteracy, poverty and destitution. Given the real shortages in the number of public schools in the country, local governments have sought to mirror and bolster DepEd's efforts by advocating for the meaningful accessibility of quality education. In line with this, the City of Taguig has consistently focused its projects and programs towards extending quality educational opportunities to the people.

¹ Umil, Marxc Anne D. "Shortages, lack of budget still afflict public school system."

This bill aims to provide a chance at such quality and accessible education to the hope of our nation through the creation of a high school in Barangay Fort Bonifacio in the City of Taguig, to be known as "Gat Andres Bonifacio National High School". Through the passage of this bill, a better future will be on the horizon for the hope of our nation, one that is free from the shackles of poverty, unproductivity and destitution.

In view of these considerations, the immediate approval of this bill is highly and earnestly sought.

Pia S. Cayetano
PIA S. CAYETANO
2nd District of Taguig City

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY FORT BONIFACIO
IN THE SECOND DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF TAGUIG, TO BE KNOWN AS GAT
ANDRES BONIFACIO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Establishment of a National High School.*** – There is hereby
2 established, under the supervision of the Department of Education, a national high
3 school in Barangay Fort Bonifacio in the Second District of the City of Taguig, to be
4 known as "Gat Andres Bonifacio National High School".

5 **SEC. 2. *Appropriations.*** – The Secretary of Education shall immediately
6 include in the Department's program the operationalization of Gat Andres Bonifacio
7 National High School, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General
8 Appropriations Act.

9 **SEC. 3. *Implementation.*** – The Secretary of Education shall issue such rules
10 and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of this Act.

11 **SEC. 4. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
12 publication in the *Official Gazette*.

13 Approved,