



Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
*First Regular Session*

House Bill No. **6125**



---

**Introduced by Representative Roman T. Romulo**

---

#### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to suspend the implementation of provisions on the Mother Tongue-Based Multilingual Education (MTB-MLE) in provided in the Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013 (Republic Act No. 10533), particularly Section 4, on the use of mother tongue, first language as medium of instruction to Kindergarten to Grade

It cannot be gainsaid that we are in full support of the intentions and rationale behind the crafting of the measure. However, we can no longer turn a blind eye and deny that our schools are ill-equipped to be able to achieve our desired objectives. It appears that amidst the height of passion to be able to deliver internationally competitive education to our people, we have utterly failed to take into account the proper preparations that were necessary in order to fruitfully implement the provisions of the law. What is worrisome is the fact that those who are suffering are precisely the youth that we sought to nurture with this Act.

We must act urgently in order to address the patent lack of materials of our schools. The Constitution provides that the State shall protect and **promote the right of all citizens to quality education** at all levels and shall **take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all** (Section 1, Article XIV, 1987 Constitution). This measure will ensure that true to the mandate provided in the Constitution, we will protect and promote the right of our citizens to quality education and ensure that it is truly accessible to all.

To this end, this bill suspends the implementation of Sec. 4 of Republic Act 10533. It provides further that it shall remain suspended until and unless the Department of Education can satisfactorily certify the preparedness of their agency to the Congress. It is in this manner that we will be able to bring forward our mandate of providing equal access to quality education.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of the proposed measure is earnestly requested.

**ROMAN T. ROMULO**

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila  
**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session  
**HOUSE BILL NO. 6125**

---

Introduced by Representative Roman T. Romulo

---

**AN ACT SUSPENDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE USE OF MOTHER  
TONGUE AS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTIONS FOR  
KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 3.**

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

**Section. 1. *Suspension of the Implementation of mother tongue or first language as medium of instructions from Kindergarten to grade 3.*** Section 4 of Republic Act 10533 (R.A. 10533), otherwise known as the “Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013” states as follows:

“SEC. 4. *Enhanced Basic Education Program.* — The enhanced basic education program encompasses at least one (1) year of kindergarten education, six (6) years of elementary education, and six (6) years of secondary education, in that sequence. Secondary education includes four (4) years of junior high school and two (2) years of senior high school education.

Kindergarten education shall mean one (1) year of preparatory education for children at least five (5) years old as a prerequisite for Grade I.

Elementary education refers to the second stage of compulsory basic education which is composed of six (6) years. The entrant age to this level is typically six (6) years old.

Secondary education refers to the third stage of compulsory basic education. It consists of four (4) years of junior high school education and two (2) years of senior high school education. The entrant age to the junior and senior high school levels are typically twelve (12) and sixteen (16) years old, respectively.

Basic education shall be delivered in languages understood by the learners as the language plays a strategic role in shaping the formative years of learners.

For kindergarten and the first three (3) years of elementary education, instruction, teaching materials and assessment shall be in the regional or native language of the learners. The Department of Education (DepED) shall formulate a mother language transition program from Grade 4 to Grade 6 so that Filipino and English shall be



gradually introduced as languages of instruction until such time when these two (2) languages can become the primary languages of instruction at the secondary level.

For purposes of this Act, mother language or first Language (LI) refers to language or languages first learned by a child, which he/she identifies with, is identified as a native language user of by others, which he/she knows best, or uses most. This includes Filipino sign language used by individuals with pertinent disabilities. The regional or native language refers to the traditional speech variety or variety of Filipino sign language existing in a region, area or place."

However, since the enactment of R.A. 10533 almost seven (7) years ago, the Department of Education (DepEd) has not come up with sufficient books, teaching materials, and supplies, to effectively implement the use of the mother tongue or first Language (LI) in the instructions and assessment of learners in Kindergarten to Grade 3.

Considering the current inability of DepEd to effectively implement the use of the mother tongue or first Language (LI) in all the regions as provided by R.A. 10533, the implementation of the use of mother tongue or first Language is hereby suspended, until such time as DepEd is able to certify to Congress that it has completed its books, teaching materials, and supplies to effectively implement the use of mother tongue or first Language to learners in Kinder to Grade 3.

**Section 2. *Development of Teaching Materials.*** The DepEd shall coordinate with the Komisyon ng Wikang Filipino (KWF) in developing books, teaching materials, and other supplies necessary in the implementation of the use of mother tongue or first Language within sixty (60) days from its effectivity.

**Section 3. *Assessment and Certification of First Language Instruction.*** – The DepEd and KWF shall provide for the assessment of the appropriateness and capacity of all local school districts to use the mother tongue or first language as a mode of instruction to learners in Kindergarten to Grade 3. Upon complete assessment of said agencies of the completeness of the materials to be used in Kindergarten to Grade 3, they shall provide Congress the results of their assessment and recommendation for the approval of the Congress.

**Section 4. *Automatic Repeal of this Act.*** – This Act shall be deemed repealed once the Congress has approved the assessment, as provided in Section 3 and DepEd has certified to Congress of the readiness of all the school districts to implement the use of mother tongue or first language as medium of instruction in Kindergarten to Grade 3.

**Section 5. *Appropriations.*** The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the DepEd. Thereafter, the amount equivalent to at least one percent (1%) of the total annual appropriations of the DepEd, which may be necessary for the continuous implementation of this Act, shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

**Section 5. *Separability Clause.*** If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions hereof.

**Section 6. *Repealing Clause.*** All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**Section 7. *Effectivity.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

**Approved.**