

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

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 4978**



**Introduced by Hon. John Marvin "Yul Servo" C. Nieto**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

As a manifestation of support to this timely piece of legislation, this representation respectfully refiles this bill, which has constantly been receiving support from the past (Rep. Belaro's HB 6419) congress.

The Constitution provides that the State recognizes and promotes the rights of indigenous cultural communities within the framework of national unity and development. It is also provided that the State shall recognize the right of indigenous families and communities to retain shared responsibility for upbringing, training, education and well-being of their children, consistent with the rights of the child.

Despite the different attempts to empower our indigenous brothers and sisters, much more needs to be done – especially when it comes to education.

As such, it is high time that we provide a framework that will further provide our indigenous brothers and sisters with the opportunity to engage in nation building by establishing at least one (1) basic education school in every indigenous cultural community. Thus, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**JOHN MARVIN "YUL SERVO" C. NIETO**

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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A BASIC EDUCATION SCHOOL IN EVERY  
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES COMMUNITY IN THE COUNTRY AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF**

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

**SECTION 1.** This Act shall be known as the "School for every Indigenous Peoples  
Community Act of 2018"

**SECTION 2.** The State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality  
education at all levels of education and shall take appropriate steps to make such  
education accessible to all.

The Constitution provides that the State recognizes and promotes the rights  
of indigenous cultural communities within the framework of national unity and  
development. The State shall recognize the right of indigenous families and  
communities to retain shared responsibility for upbringing, training, education and  
well-being of their children, consistent with the rights of the child.

**SECTION 3.** As used in this Act:

- a) Basic Education refers to the intended basic learning needs which provides the  
foundation on which subsequent learning can be based. It includes  
kindergarten, elementary and secondary education as well as alternative  
learning systems for out-of-school learners and those with special needs.
- b) Basic Education School refers to learning institutions accredited by the  
Department of Education (DepEd) to deliver services addressing the intended  
basic learning needs of the students; and
- c) Indigenous Peoples or Indigenous Peoples Community refers to the same  
definition stated in Section 3h, Ch. 2 of RA NO. 8371 or the Indigenous  
Peoples' Rights Act of 1997 which describes it as "groups of people or  
homogenous societies who have lived as organized community on communally  
bounded and defined territory and other distinctive cultural traits, or who have  
resisted political, social and cultural inroads of colonization, non-indigenous  
religions and cultures, or the establishment of present state boundaries.

**SECTION 4.** It is herein mandated that there shall be established at least  
one Basic Education School for every Indigenous Peoples Community in the country.



**SECTION 5.** Indigenous Peoples have the right to revitalize, use, develop and transmit to future generations their histories, oral traditions, philosophies, writing systems and literatures, and to designate and retain their own names for communities, places and persons.

**SECTION 6.** It shall inculcate in the curricula the effective measure to ensure that the Indigenous Peoples can understand and be understood in political, legal and administrative proceedings, where necessary by means of provisions of interpretation or by other appropriate means.

**SECTION 7.** The Department of Education, in consultation with Committees on National Cultural Communities of the House of Representatives and the Senate, and other concerned agencies is herein tasked to formulate the Implementing Rules and Regulation of this Act within thirty (30) days from its effectivity.

**SECTION 8.** If any provision hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

**SECTION 9.** 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 10.** This act shall take effect upon its approval.

*Approved,*