

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



**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**4837**

**HOUSE BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

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**Introduced by HON. LORNA P. BAUTISTA-BANDIGAN**

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Article 14 of the Philippine Constitution states 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. Provide adult citizens, the disabled, and out-of-school youth with training in civics, vocational efficiency and other skills." Thus, the highest law of the land expressly affirms that education is a primordial and fundamental mandate to the State that cannot be evaded without just reason.

Filipinos place a very high premium in education. Many parents and students believe it is the rite of passage to a better life. So much so, that parents are willing to go to all lengths in order to see their children graduate. To them who are truly poor, education is the only hope they have to get up from the quagmire of their dismal condition. This reality resonates at the core of our government system, that education has always been at the top of the national administration's priority when it comes to allotting the budget for national development.

Formal education started in the barangay as early as 1950. Barangay Bukid is very far from central barangays. The above rationale justifies the filing of this Bill that will work towards the conversion of the Bukid Elementary School in the Municipality of Jose Abad Santos into Bukid Integrated School. The schools, which are proximate to Bukid Elementary School, are quite a distance. For instance, the distance of Bukid Elementary School to Camalian Elementary School is 2.15 kilometers away, while the Balangonan National High School is 10.4 kilometers and because the vehicles plying the route are few and far between, most of the students traverse these schools by foot. From Bukid Elementary School to Camalian Elementary School is something like two hours during the dry season and a few minutes more during the rainy season, while Bukid Elementary School to Balangonan National High School is nearly half a day walk and more during the wet

season. If ever the students were lucky enough to take a ride, they were charged exorbitant price for their fares.

Most of the people living in Barangay Bukid are engaged in farming and fishing as their means of living. Because of this, most of the elementary graduates have decided to get married at an early age and then settle down to the menial jobs their parents had like working in the farms and in coconut plantations.

It is hope the approval of this Bill will give the people of Barangay Bukid in Jose Abad Santos a new lease in like through the opportunity afforded by better education.



**LORNA P. BAUTISTA-BANDIGAN**  
Representative  
Lone District – Davao Occidental





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**AN ACT CONVERTING THE BUKID ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BARANGAY BUKID, MUNICIPALITY OF JOSE ABAD SANTOS, PROVINCE OF DAVAO OCCIDENTAL INTO AN INTEGRATED SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS BUKID INTEGRATED SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

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2       **SEC. 1.** The Bukid Elementary School in Barangay Bukid, Municipality of Jose  
3 Abad Santos, Province of Davao Occidental is hereby converted into an integrated  
4 school to be known as Bukid Integrated School.  
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6       **SEC. 2.** All personnel, assets, liabilities, and records of the Bukid Elementary  
7 School are hereby transferred to and absorbed by the Bukid Integrated School.  
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9       **SEC. 3** The Secretary of Education shall immediately include in the  
10 Department's program the operationalization of the Bukid Integrated School, the funding  
11 of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.  
12

13       **SEC. 4.** Within one hundred twenty (120) days after the approval of this Act,  
14 the Secretary of Education shall formulate the rules and regulations implementing the  
15 provisions of this Act.  
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17       **SEC. 5** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the  
18 *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.  
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20       *Approved,*