

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7743, June 17, 1994]

**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
CONGRESSIONAL, CITY AND MUNICIPAL LIBRARIES AND
BARANGAY READING CENTERS THROUGHOUT THE PHILIPPINES,
APPROPRIATING THE NECESSARY FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the national policy to promote the moral and intellectual well-being of the people: elevate the literacy level of every Filipino to the end that illiteracy is eradicated by the end of the century; and recognize the vital role of knowledge and information in nation-building by establishing public libraries in every congressional district, city and municipality, and reading centers in every barangay throughout the Philippines.

SEC. 2. *Establishment of Public Libraries and Reading Centers.* - The National Library in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) shall undertake the establishment of additional public libraries to serve all congressional districts, cities and municipalities in the Philippines and reading centers in every barangay except in cities or municipalities where there are existing public libraries or in barangays where there are existing reading centers: *Provided*, That the establishment of such libraries and reading centers shall be based on the development program of the National Library, in coordination with the development council of each city or municipality and in the case of the barangay reading centers, in coordination with the respective barangay councils: *Provided, further*, That where these public libraries and reading centers already exist, the National Library shall continue to upgrade the facilities thereof.

The National Library shall continue to coordinate and organize seminars, workshops and other trainings for the professional benefit of librarians.

SEC. 3. *Role of the National Library.* - The National Library shall provide the standard set of reference books and other materials such as, but not limited to, encyclopedias, dictionaries, maps and globes upon the establishment of the libraries. The National Library shall continue to supply the public libraries with other books, non-book materials, equipment, supplies and other appropriate and relevant reference and reading materials, taking into consideration the needs of the community concerned.

SEC. 4. *Site.* - The establishment of the public libraries and reading centers shall be an integral part of the development plan of each local government unit: *Provided*, That barangays shall provide the site for barangay reading centers.