

[Commonwealth Act No. 184, November 13, 1936]

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL LANGUAGE INSTITUTE AND DEFINE ITS POWERS AND DUTIES.

Be it enacted by the National Assembly of the Philippines:

SECTION 1. There is hereby created a National Language Institute which shall be composed of a president and six members, each of whom shall represent one of the principal linguistic groups of the Philippines.

SEC. 2. The President and members of the National Language Institute shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines, with the consent of the Commission on Appointments of the National Assembly, and shall each receive a per diem of ten pesos for each session they attend.

SEC. 3. The Department of Public Instruction shall provide the National Language Institute with a suitable office and the necessary clerical personnel.

SEC. 4. The National Language Institute shall adopt its -own rules of procedure, shall hold sessions at least once a week, and shall submit a. monthly report of its work and activities to the President of the Philippines, through the Secretary of Public Instruction.

SEC. 5. The National Language Institute shall make a study of the Philippine dialects in general for the purpose" of evolving and adopting a common national language based on one of the existing native tongues. For this purpose, it shall be the special duty of the National Language Institute:

1. To make a study and survey of each of the chief tongues of the Philippines spoken at present by at least half a million inhabitants.
2. To select from said native tongues and arrange in separate groups:
 - a. Words and phrases used in all or in the majority of said tongues, with common sound and meaning.
 - b. Words used in ail or in the majority of said tongues, with the same sound but with different meanings.
 - c. Words used in all or in the majority of said tongues, with similar sound but with the same or different meanings.
3. To study and determine the Philippine phonetics and orthography.
4. To make a comparative critical study of all Philip pine prefixes, infixes and suffixes.
5. To choose the native tongue which is to be used as a basis for the evolution and adoption of the Philippine national language. In proceeding to such election, the In stitute shall give preference to the tongue that is the most developed as regards structure, mechanism, and literature and is accepted and used at the present time by the greatest number of Filipinos.