

**THE FANGS OF TITLE VI OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE  
CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES**

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Philosopher, political theorist, and proponent of *tabula rasa*, John Locke said, “The end of law is not to abolish or restrain, but to preserve and enlarge freedom. For in all the states of created beings capable of law, where there is no law, there is no freedom.”

The declaration of policy of the Title VI of the Administrative Code of the Philippines (1987) 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.

And pursuant to this, the State shall: (1) establish, maintain and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the people and society; (2) establish and maintain a system of free public education in the elementary and high school levels without limiting the natural right of parents to rear their children, elementary education is compulsory for all children of school age; (3) establish and maintain a system of scholarship grants, student loan programs, subsidies, and other incentives which shall be available to deserving students in both public and private schools, especially to the underprivileged; (4) encourage non-formal, informal, and indigenous learning systems, as well as self-learning, independent, and out-of-school study programs particularly those that respond to community needs; and (5) provide adult citizens, the disabled, and out-of-school youth with training in civics, vocational efficiency, and other skills.

The educational triangulation of the Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, directed by the Department, shall be primarily responsible for the formulation, planning, implementation, and coordination of the policies, plans, programs and projects in the areas of formal and non-formal education at all levels, supervise all educational institutions, both public and private, and provide for the establishment and maintenance of a complete, adequate and integrated system of education relevant to the goals of national development. They have the powers and functions of formulating, planning, implementing, and coordinating the policies,

plans, programs, and projects for elementary, secondary, physical, and international education; non-formal and vocational or technical education; higher education; development of culture; foreign and locally assisted projects and other activities; and perform such other functions as may be provided by law.

It has always been the battle cry of the government to make education accessible to all Filipinos. Though it is already been mandated by law, the mantra of “*no child will be left behind*” is not yet fully realized in the country. The Education Department always gets a shark bite of the national budget annually. But it did not seem to reflect on the report of Philippine Star in the opening of classes this year when the department admitted that it has limited resources, leaving no child behind remains a formidable challenge.

While it is true that a country’s vision of inclusive growth and development entails investment in human capital, particularly through the provision of quality basic education, competitive technical vocational skills training, and relevant and responsive higher education, the goal will remain elusive if no resources will be utilized. A nation relying on scrounging funds will not be able to completely protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels.

The end of law is not to abolish or restrain, but to preserve and enlarge freedom. For in all the states of created beings capable of law, where there is no law, there is no freedom. There is an existing law and freedom is ever-present. The only thing left is using both in making education accessible to all citizens.

#### References:

Executive Order No, 292, s.1987 from [www.officialgazette.gov.ph](http://www.officialgazette.gov.ph)

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