

Annex I

The Alternative Budget Initiative:

Broadening People's Participation in Securing Financing for Development



Concept of the Alternative Budget Initiative (ABI)

- at present, many civil society organizations already do analyses of their governments' budgets, especially for social development issues they are advocating, like MDGs
- this is because they are aware that government commitments and promises are meaningless and can't be implemented without proper budgetary support.
- at the same time, many civil society organizations recognize that it is not sufficient to do budget analysis.
- they do budget analysis with the objective of moving forward to participatory budgeting and alternative budgets

Crafting a historic milestone

- For the past 6 years, Social Watch Philippines has been campaigning for financing for development
- In early June 2006, Cong. Cayetano broached the idea of a CSO-legislators partnership to push for an alternative budget
- 2 weeks later, Cong. Cayetano was joined by Cong. Guingona, Escudero & Casiño and the CSOs, led by Prof. Briones also increased in number. SWP, FDC, GCAP, PRRM, E-Net were among the first ones to get active

Crafting a historic milestone

- By 3rd week of July, 6 topic areas have been identified: agriculture, education, health, environment, debt, financing and macroeconomic assumptions. TWGs were also formed.
- Second week of September, three weeks after the President submitted the 2007 budget in Congress, the TWGs presented the Alternative Budget proposals to the partner legislators and civil society groups.



Crafting a historic milestone

- **October 11** - The alternative budget was presented before the entire House of Representatives in a privilege speech delivered by Deputy Minority Leader Teofisto Guingona III

“Today, we think it is time to change. A change for the better. A change for a more dynamic Philippines. A change that will usher in genuine people’s participation in the budget process. This will bring in a new perspective, and will make our system a more participatory democracy. This alternative budget has undergone a series of consultations among the various groups. This is a clear indication that the opposition does not only confine itself to criticism but also proposes meaningful alternatives.”

Crafting a historic milestone

- In response, Cong. Douglas Cagas of the Majority noted that:

“...what the minority has done is something that is necessary in a democracy. This is the beginning of a constructive way of doing things. In fact, in all major issues that confront Congress and coming congresses, any opposition group should present an alternative proposal, especially the case of an

The ABI strategy...



**Capacity building
for CSOs on...**

**...Philippine
budget system,
budget process
and entry points of
NGOs in the
budget process**



Organization of clusters



Working on the “alternative” budget proposal

- Clusters meet to discuss and agree on the budget analysis and proposals



Pushing the alternative budget proposals to the House of Representatives



Fighting for the alternative budget proposals in the Senate



Challenging the Bicam

- the “third house” is convened
- advocacy continued through more press releases & mobilizations

NGOs Support Senate Version of '07 Budget

7 Dec 06

NGOs Condemn Con Ass; Pushes Passage of '07 Budget

9 Dec 06

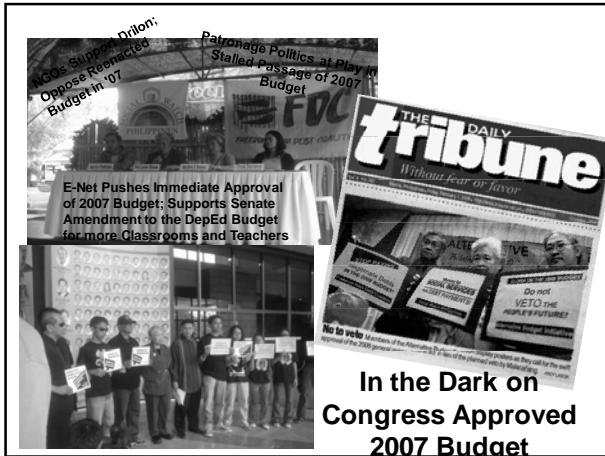
Fund Social Development in '07 Budget Instead of Charter Change

13 Dec 06

NGOs Urge Bicam to Spare Education Budget; Support Senate Version

18 Dec 06





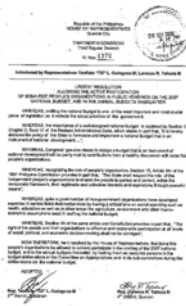
Protecting the gains

- After both chambers passed the budget, ABI defends its gains against the veto power of the President and calls for immediate approval and implementation of the Bicam approved budget.



What ABI achieved?

- More NGOs joined the initiative from 22 in 2006 to 60 in 2010.
- **Filing of House Res. No. 1376: "Urgent Resolution Allowing the Active Participation of Bona Fide People's Organization in Congress Annual Budget Deliberations"** was filed by Congs. TG Guingona III & Erin Tañada III in 2006 and adoption of the House of Representatives in 2007.



Opportunity given to ABI by the Committee on Appropriations to present the Alternative Budget proposals before the committee

"This morning we are going to break traditions. For the first time we are giving NGOs and POs that opportunity to present their views, comments and recommendations on the General Appropriations Bill, which they call the alternative budget. We have approved during our last meeting to allow such presentation by POs and NGOs because we feel that the process is incomplete if we call only to the public hearing the representatives of the various public

agencies. We believe, that the people, who are the ultimate beneficiary or victim should be allowed or be given the opportunity thru the alternative groups, thru non-elective and yet alternative organizations."
Rep. Edcel Lagman



More legislators supporting the ABI



gained good access and credibility

ABI Gains: Increased funding for social development

For 2007 budget, gained significant increases particularly in basic and tertiary education amounting to P5.3 billion

For 2008 budget, significant increases in basic and higher educations, health and environment amounting to P6.3 billion.

ABI Gains in 2009 Budget

Environment	<i>Environmental Management Bureau, Bantay Gubat and Bantay Kalikasan Program, Recycling of Agricultural and Forest Wastes</i>	1,154,700,000.00
Basic Education	<i>Teachers, Pre-School, MOOE, GASTPE, Computerization, Science & Math Equipment, Library Hub Program and Education Learning Centers, IT Equipment, Basic Education Madrasah</i>	4,581,951,000.00
Higher Education	<i>Slate Universities and Colleges</i>	559,225,000.00
Agriculture	<i>Additional certified inbred seeds and production support for organic producers</i>	650,000,000.00
Health	<i>Rural Midwife Placement Program, Resident Physicians, Health Promotion, Hospital and Health Facilities, Purchase of Mercury Free Thermometers</i>	71,355,563.00
Total (Php)		7,017,231,563.00

ABI Gains in 2010 Budget

Environment	<i>Biodiversity, Sustainable Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Ecological Waste Management, Climate Change Adaptation Measures (Disaster Response)</i>	1,363,716,000.00
Basic Education	<i>Alternative Learning System, Human Resources Training and Development</i>	843,910,000.00
Agriculture		1,980,000,000.00
Health	<i>Environmental and Occupation Health, Expanded Program on Immunization, Rabies and TB Control, National Epidemiological and Disease Surveillance, Autoclaves, Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, Health Human Resource Development</i>	949,613,000.00
Total (Php)		5,137,239,000.00