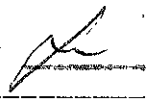


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SENATE

S. Jt. Res. No. 6

RECEIVED BY 

Introduced by Senator Edgardo J. Angara

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION CREATING A CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT  
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION TO REVIEW AND ASSESS PHILIPPINE EDUCATION,  
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFORE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, on August 14, 1990, President Corazon C. Aquino, approved the creation of the Congressional Committee on Education (EDCOM) as proposed in Joint Resolution No. 2 passed by both houses of Congress;

WHEREAS, the EDCOM was mandated to submit a report that would lay down the agenda for educational reform in the country;

WHEREAS, EDCOM submitted to Congress, President Corazon C. Aquino and the nation, the report entitled *Making Education Work, An Agenda for Reform* as the result of its work;

WHEREAS, laws were passed to trifocalize the educational system into the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and the Department of Education (DepEd) to bring about clear program focus, realistic plans and targets and rational allocation of resources;

WHEREAS, other EDCOM recommendations were either not acted upon or not implemented as EDCOM intended;

WHEREAS, among the major recommendations that were not acted upon was the creation or institutionalization of a permanent National Coordinating Council for Education (NCCE) that would coordinate and harmonize the policies and programs of the three education agencies and dovetail them to national development plans;

WHEREAS, other major structural/organization recommendations not acted upon or glossed over are the: 1) creation of Educational Statistics Division in the National Statistics Office to provide an impartial and neutral education statistics, 2) creation of Center for Leading Edge Technologies, and of the 3) National Educational Assessment and Testing Authority;

WHEREAS, the EDCOM recommendation to create an Employment Planning Board which shall prepare a national employment plan to guide matching of the demand for and production of skills was not acted upon and might have caused the following disturbing problems in the country's human resource development:

continuing drain and shortage in the country's pool of scientists and engineers particularly in crucial areas as meteorology, aviation engineering and geology and declining enrolment in agriculture, fisheries and forestry;

WHEREAS, 15 years after the creation of major bodies in education and manpower development sub-sectors, the following conditions continue to exist:

- our net enrollment ratio for elementary was 85.12% in 2008, a retrogression in accomplishment because we had it nearly universal at 99.1% in 1990;
- in 2008, nearly a quarter of those entering school dropped out before Grade 5;
- in 2008 the number of out-of-school children aged 6 to 11 broke through the one-million mark, there were over 100,000 more children out of school than in 1999;
- the basic education system suffers from chronic shortages of teachers and classrooms, increasing class sizes and low levels of learning achievement; and
- the underperformance of higher education institutions in producing quality teachers is still evident in the results of the Professional Regulations Committee (PRC) examinations.

WHEREAS, the system of education in the country is not comparable with international standards and therefore not competitive;

WHEREAS, notwithstanding EDCOM recommendations on language policy in learning and teaching, debates continue and the language issue remains unresolved;

WHEREAS, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority has failed to implement the provisions of the law which created it, particularly the devolution of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) to local governments and industry and the transformation of TESDA from providing TVET to monitoring, evaluation, regulation, planning and financing;

WHEREAS, the number of SUCs and LUCs has increased significantly since 1992, leading to duplication of degree offerings with consequent decrease in the provision of faculty and physical facilities requirements;

WHEREAS, there are new challenges to 21<sup>st</sup> century education such as those of climate change, environmental degradation, poverty, resource depletion, food security threats, new health and diseases problems, global population explosion, lifestyle revolution resulting from information and communication technology and globalization – among others – that call for new ways of teaching and learning, new ways knowledge and skills are assessed and certified, new education governance and even new designs and ways of constructing schools;

WHEREAS, the cycle of development of a child from birth to 6 years of age (0 to 6) has been increasingly recognized as a crucial element of the education that is required by the Constitution to be given by the government to its citizens;

WHEREAS, the Congressional Commission on Science, Technology, and Engineering (COMSTE) and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) have recommended various steps to rationalize, modernize, and raise the international standards of the education structure and curriculum;

WHEREAS, international agreements such as the Bologna Process, the Washington Accord, the Dublin Accord, the Sydney Accord, the APEC Register, and various international accreditation initiatives have created new demands on our graduates and are exacting new standards on educational institutions;

WHEREAS, there are new research findings on how people learn that need to be processed in the context of the Philippine setting;

WHEREAS, the Philippines has formally agreed to the goals and purposes of various national and international studies and agreements such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Education for All (EFA) of the United Nations, the Basic Education Sector Reform Agenda (BESRA), and various ASEAN agreements;

Now, therefore in view of the foregoing, be it

RESOLVED, by the Senate and the House of Representatives in Congress assembled, that a Congressional Oversight Committee on Education be created jointly by the Senate and the House of Representatives to be composed of five (5) members of the House of Representatives and five (5) members of the Senate to be designated respectively by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, who shall endeavor to have the three (3) major geographical regions, namely Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, proportionately represented. The Committee shall undertake a national review, assessment and evaluation of the performance of the bodies created to take care of basic education, higher education and manpower development of the country as well as of other bodies and agencies that have initiated actions on cross-cutting recommendations that are not within the distinct purviews of DepEd, TESDA and CHED like the Civil Service Commission (CSC), the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), the Department of Finance (DOF), the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), among others. The review, evaluation and assessment shall be made in order to determine: (a) observance of the mandates of the respective laws that created the three education and manpower development bodies; b) the reasons for the gaps in the implementation of EDCOM recommendations and its impact on the performance of the education and training sector for the past 15 years; c) measures to enable and empower the education and manpower institutions to critically examine and improve performance in the light of globalization and competitiveness, poverty alleviation, sustainable development and overall human development goals of the country; d) the best teaching, learning, and administrative practices of various national and foreign educational institutions that can be adopted across the curriculum and across the system; and e) additional legislation, if needed, to further the goals of EDCOM;

RESOLVED FURTHER, That to carry out its objectives, the Committee shall have the following functions and powers:

- (1) The Committee shall review, assess and evaluate the formal, non-formal, informal, and alternative learning systems, including continuing systems of education at all levels.
- (2) It shall produce a report of its findings and shall formulate short- and long-term policy and program recommendations – in the context of the abovementioned goals – to include each of the following areas:
  - i) Sectoral plans and targets;
  - ii) Governance and management;
  - iii) Educational/manpower development curriculum and programs;
  - iv) Financing;
  - v) Convergences among all departments and sectors concerned with human resource management and development for national development.

For the foregoing purposes, the Committee shall:

- a) Prescribe and adopt the guidelines that will govern the national review and assessment;
- b) Approve the work plan for the conduct of the national review, evaluation and assessment;
- c) Approve the budget for the programs of the Committee and all disbursements therefrom, including compensation of all personnel;
- d) Hold hearings, receive testimonies, reports and expert advice on the status of Philippine education and on available remedies to identify problems;
- e) Pass upon the recommendations of the Technical Secretariat which it shall organize, to be headed by an executive director, to provide the necessary technical, management and staff services;
- f) Report to Congress its accomplishments on a periodic basis, its findings and recommendations on actions to be taken by Congress and the departments concerned with education and manpower development;
- g) Secure from any department, bureau, office or instrumentality of the Government such assistance as may be needed, including technical information, preparation and production of reports and the submission of recommendations or plans as it may require;
- h) Hire and appoint such employees and personnel whether temporary, contractual, or on consultancy, subject to applicable rules;
- i) Summon by subpoena any public official or private citizen to testify before it, or require by subpoena duces tecum to produce before it such records, reports or other documents as may be necessary in the performance of its functions; and
- j) Generally, to exercise all the powers necessary to attain the purposes for which it is created.

RESOLVED, FURTHER, That the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Education, Arts and Culture and the Chairmen of the House of Representatives Committees on Basic Education and Culture and on Higher and Technical Education shall serve as Co-Chairmen of the Committee. The members of the Committee may establish standing committees from among its members and use resource persons from the public and private sectors as may be

needed. The members of the Committee shall receive no compensation, but travelling and other necessary expenses shall be allowed.

RESOLVED, FINALLY, That the Committee shall accomplish its mandate within three (3) years from its organization and that in order to carry out the objectives of this Resolution, the sum of TEN MILLION PESOS (PhP10,000,000.00) shall be charged annually against the budget of the Philippine Senate and another TEN MILLION PESOS (PhP10,000,000.00) shall be charged annually against budget of the House of Representatives, both for a period of three (3) years, to commence on 2011, for an annual budget of TWENTY MILLION PESOS (PhP20,000,000.00). Such amount shall be subject to authorized increases that may be made by Congress. For the pre-organizational preparation activities of the Committee, the sum of FIVE MILLION PESOS (PhP 5,000,000.00) shall be charged against the 2010 appropriation of the Senate and the House of Representatives in equal amounts.

Adopted,

  
SENATOR EDGARDO J. ANGARA