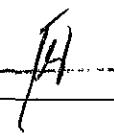


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SENATE
P.S.R. No. 1016

RECEIVED BY: _____



Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALARMING RISE OF ILLITERACY IN THE COUNTRY

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 17, provides: The State shall give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development;

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 14, Section 1, provides: 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;

WHEREAS, Section 2 of the same, also provides: 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;

WHEREAS, according to the 24 April 2009 editorial of the *Philippine Star*, an estimated 5.2 million Filipinos are illiterate;

WHEREAS, the country reportedly has one of the highest dropout rates in Asia, worse than that of Indonesia and Vietnam;

WHEREAS, according to the Department of Education (DepEd) website, for the academic year 2007 to 2008, the dropout rate or school leavers rate in grade school was 5.99%; on the other hand, the dropout rate in high school for the same academic year was 7.45%;

WHEREAS, DepEd officials reportedly warned that the growing illiteracy rate in the country would take its toll on the economy; international surveys show that illiteracy and deteriorating public education have already taken their toll on national competitiveness;

WHEREAS, quality education and economic development go hand in hand; countries that prioritize the education of their citizens see accelerated growth in their economies;

WHEREAS, the Philippines must give high priority to educating its citizens by instituting stronger literacy programs for young people and for adults; local governments must also prioritize the implementation of their own literacy programs in their localities;

WHEREFORE, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the alarming rise of illiteracy in the country.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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