

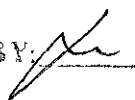
FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

'11 MAY -4 P2:18

SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 450

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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RESOLUTION  
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,  
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED EXORBITANT FEES IMPOSED  
BY PUBLIC SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR GRADUATION EXERCISES

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 14, Section 1 states, "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, various news outfits have reported on the increasing graduation fees collected from students nationwide;

WHEREAS, it was alleged that graduation fees would range from P800 to P1,000, enraging the parents, despite claims by school officials that these fees were approved by the Parents-Teachers Association (PTA) or by the graduating class' officers;

WHEREAS, the graduation fees collected were allegedly for the for rentals for chairs and togas, production of the graduation program and invitations, food and reproduction of certificates and report cards;

WHEREAS, the Department of Education (DepEd) has banned the collection of graduation and other fees from students of public schools;

WHEREAS, despite the ban imposed by the DepEd, public schools still continue to collect graduation fees under the guise of authorization by the PTA or by the graduating class' officers;

WHEREAS, it should be noted that parents who are active in the PTA are usually financially better-off than the majority who, because of limited means, hardly have a voice in PTA deliberations and decision;

WHEREAS, in most cases, the majority of the parents have no choice but to comply with the requirements because noncompliance would mean that their children will not be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremonies;

WHEREAS, extravagance is anathema to the virtues taught in school; unnecessary spending for graduation ceremonies could land a huge blow to the budget of low-income families;

WHEREAS, to remedy this yearly problem, the legislature should create measures that will prevent unnecessary spending for commencement exercises in both public and private schools;

WHEREAS, the DepEd secretary should issue instructions and not just guidelines for school officials on the requirements and manner of execution of commencement exercises;

WHEREAS, private school officials should also be cautioned about extravagant and ostentatious graduation ceremonies that may prejudice scholars, and lower-bracket families who have kids enrolled in their schools;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the reported exorbitant fees imposed by public school officials for graduation exercises.

Adopted,

*Miriam Defensor Santiago*  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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