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SENATE  
SENATE RESOLUTION **673**

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Introduced by SENATOR FERDINAND R. MARCOS, JR.

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**RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE STATUS OF THE RECONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION OF CLASSROOMS, SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES DAMAGED BY SUPERTYPHOON "YOLANDA", AND WHETHER THE FUNDS APPROPRIATED FOR THE PURPOSE WERE RELEASED, IN ORDER TO RESTORE NORMALCY AND ENSURE THE WELFARE OF THE STUDENTS AND THE WHOLE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY IN THE AREA**

Whereas, it has been more than six (6) months after Supertyphoon "Yolanda" ripped through Visayas Regions and nearby provinces that left extensive damage to properties and claimed great number of lives;

Whereas, among the structures severely damaged by this monstrous typhoon were school buildings, classrooms and other educational facilities;

Whereas, according to the Department of Education (DepEd), out of 2,172 totally damaged classrooms in the affected areas, only 764 have been constructed so far, while a total of 5,007 classrooms out of 9,420 partially damaged classrooms have been repaired;

Whereas, this miserable scenario will affect almost 200,000 elementary and high school students who will be forced to hold classes in 1,828 makeshift and pre-fabricated classrooms, and 2,555 tents this coming school year, according to DepEd;

Whereas, Congress allotted over P100 Billion under the 2014 National Budget, and subsequently approved a supplemental budget in the amount of P14.6 Billion allocated for the rehabilitation of disaster-hit areas;

Whereas, it has been reported that P1 Billion out of the total rehabilitation fund had been earmarked for the repair of public elementary and high schools, with another P1 Billion for rehabilitation of damaged facilities of State Universities and Colleges;

Whereas, Secretary Florencio Abad of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) announced that the government had already released P32.2 Billion for the rehabilitation efforts in disaster-stricken areas;

Whereas, Secretary Panfilo Lacson, Presidential Adviser on Rehabilitation and Recovery, however, clarified that the P32.2 Billion released by the DBM was not for reconstruction, but primarily for relief operations;

Whereas, there is an urgent need to direct the DBM, DepEd and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to explain whether or not the funds released includes the allotment for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of school buildings, classrooms and other educational facilities in the disaster-hit areas;

Whereas, it is crucial to swiftly resolve this issue since the registration of students had already started, in preparation for the opening of school year 2014 – 2015 on the first week of June;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate, to direct Senate Committee on Public Works to investigate, in aid of legislation, the status of the reconstruction and rehabilitation of classrooms, school buildings and other educational facilities damaged by Super typhoon "Yolanda", and whether the funds appropriated for the purpose were released, in order to restore normalcy and ensure the welfare of the students and the whole academic community in the area.

Adopted,

  
**FERDINAND R. MARCOS, JR.**