

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1171

SENATE

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE RECENT COMMISSION ON AUDIT (COA) REPORT WHICH FOUND THAT THE PHILIPPINE NORMAL UNIVERSITY HAD MILLIONS OF UNUTILIZED DISBURSEMENT ACCELERATION PROGRAM (DAP) FUNDS IN 2013

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 also provides, in Article 2, Section 27: "The State shall maintain honesty and integrity in the public service and take positive and effective measures against graft and corruption";

WHEREAS, state auditors reported that in 2012 and 2013, the Philippine Normal University (PNU) was not able to spend millions of funds it received under the government's Disbursement Acceleration Program (DAP);

WHEREAS, in its recently released audit report for 2013, the Commission on Audit (COA) said PNU still had P17.2 million from the DAP funds released by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED);

WHEREAS, of the P17 million CHED released under DAP in October 2012 for the PNU's facility modernization program, the state university reportedly spent only P11.1 million as of 31 December 2013;

WHEREAS, the COA said the slow spending deprived students and faculty of improved equipment and facilities;

WHEREAS, of the P7.6 million DAP funds allocated for the PNU's Student Grant-in_aid Program for Poverty Alleviation for academic years 2012-2013 and 2013-2014, only P5.9 million was disbursed for stipend and book allowance;

WHEREAS, state auditors said the disbursements were below the P60,000 per year per entitlement, which, for the 64 student grantees, should amount to a total of P7.68 million;

WHEREAS, of the P11.9 million DAP funds the PNU received in 2013 for its Research and Development Program for Developing International Competitiveness in Teacher Education, it spent only P2.2 million as of 31 December 2013;

WHEREAS, the underutilization of funds defeats the purpose of the controversial DAP as an economic stimulus package;

WHEREAS, although the Supreme Court has declared the DAP unconstitutional, underutilization of funds by a state university merits an investigation;

WHEREAS, it is the duty of government to make education accessible to all, especially to students in state universities and colleges who may otherwise be incapable of paying for higher education;

WHEREAS, Congress, in exercising the power of the purse, must ensure that funds are judiciously spent by agencies to which they have been allocated;

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 recent Commission on Audit (COA) report which found that the Philippine Normal University had millions of unutilized Disbursement Acceleration Program (DAP) funds in 2013.

Adopted,

/kmp


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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