Senate
(Office of the Secretary)

'15 APR 16 P2:38

SENATE
P. S. R. No. _____1279_____

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT THERE IS A NEED TO ALLOCATE A ₱29-BILLION TRANSITION FUND TO SUPPORT COLLEGE TEACHERS WHO WOULD BE AFFECTED BY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE K TO 12 PROGRAM

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, Republic Act No. 10533, otherwise known as the "Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013", Section 17 states that: "The DepED, the CHED and the TESDA shall formulate the appropriate strategies and mechanisms needed to ensure smooth transition from the existing ten (10) years basic education cycle to the enhanced basic education (K to 12) cycle";

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Star* on 24 March 2015 reported that the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) is pushing for the passage of a law that would allocate a ₱29-billion transition fund to support college teachers who will be affected by the implementation of the K to 12 program;

WHEREAS, according to CHED Commissioner Maria Cynthia Rose Banzon Bautista, the proposed transition fund would be used to support not just those who would be retrenched, but also those who would receive lower salaries due to lower enrollment in colleges during the transition period;

WHEREAS, Bautista further claimed that it would not just be a labor fund, but a welfare and development fund as well, and that much of the budget will be used to improve the quality of education;

WHEREAS, it was reported that CHED is pushing for the passage of the law, which is pending before the House of Representatives, by October 2015;

1   WHEREAS, the Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Labor and

2   Employment (DOLE), and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)

3   allegedly support the proposed measure;

4   WHEREAS, it was noted based on the proposed law that the transition fund would be

5   sourced partly from the Higher Education Development Fund (HEDF), which comprise the

6   budget of state universities and colleges, and taxes collected from higher education institutions;

7   WHEREAS, the bill reportedly further provides that private donations through the HEDF

8   may also be sourced and used to support the Tertiary Transition Education Fund (TETF), which

9   may be used to provide academic personnel with opportunities for graduate studies, to fund

10   investments in development of innovative curricula or to support school personnel who would be

11   affected by the K to 12 program;

12   WHEREAS, according to Alliance of Concerned Teachers party-list Representative

13   Antonio Tonio, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) has yet to confirm if there is

14   money to finance the transition fund;

15   WHEREAS, the effects caused by the K to 12 program should be addressed immediately

16   to maintain the quality of education and to ensure that affected school personnel would be

17   supported;

18   WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct

19   the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the report that there

20   is a need to allocate a ₱29-billion transition fund to support college teachers who would be

21   affected by the implementation of the K to 12 program.

Adopted,

MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/cerd

2