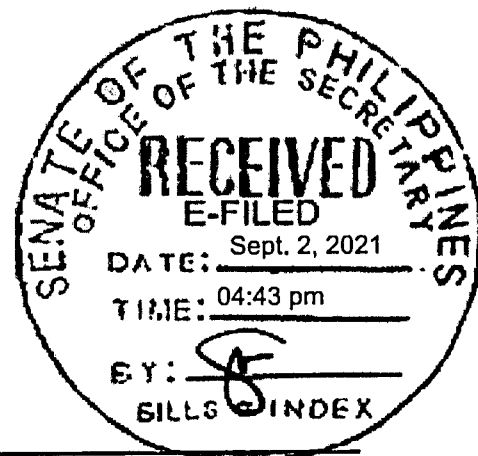


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)



SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 887

Introduced by SENATOR LEILA M. DE LIMA

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE DEFICIENCIES IN THE UTILIZATION
OF ₱8.136 BILLION FUNDS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S
(DEPED) BASIC EDUCATION-LEARNING CONTINUITY PROGRAM (BE-
LCP) DURING THE PANDEMIC AS REVEALED IN THE 2020 COMMISSION
ON AUDIT (COA) REPORT

1 WHEREAS, Article II, Section 14 of the 1987 Constitution states that “[t]he State
2 shall give priority to education, science and technology, arts, cultures and sports to
3 foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human
4 liberation and development.”;

5 WHEREAS, Article II, Section 27 of the same posits that “[t]he State shall
6 maintain honesty and integrity in the public service and take positive and effective
7 measures against graft and corruption.”;

8 WHEREAS, the 2020 Annual Audit Report of the Commission on Audit (COA)
9 for the Department of Education (DepEd) disclosed that the Department has
10 deficiencies in spending ₱8.136 billion in funds for its Basic Education Learning
11 Continuity Plan (BE-LCP).¹ The Department crafted said plan to address the difficulty of
12 providing quality education to Filipino learners during the COVID-19 pandemic without
13 sacrificing their health and safety;

¹ Aurelio J.M (2021). *COA flags DepEd for questionable use of P8-B fund*. Retrieved on 30 August 2021 from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1474524/coa-flags-deped-for-questionable-use-of-p8-b-fund>

1 WHEREAS, it was found out that DepEd had lapses in the utilization of around
2 ₱3,220,873,835.58 in COVID-19 funds that were provided under the Bayanihan 1 and 2²;

3 WHEREAS, the audit highlighted the existence of errors and deficiencies in the
4 self-learning module, indicating the lack in planning towards the preparation of self-
5 learning modules and procedural lapses in the checking/review and evaluation
6 processes, thus adversely affecting the quality of the self-learning modules and the
7 Department’s objective of ensuring quality basic education³;

8 WHEREAS, the DepEd argued that such deficiencies were due to restricted
9 mobility caused by nationwide lockdowns and not because of corruption and
10 negligence⁴;

11 WHEREAS, on October 23, 2020, the DepEd reported that it was able to identify
12 41 errors in the first quarter self-learning modules (SLMs) it produced for distance
13 learning this school year.⁵ This included “painful” grammar errors, wrong math
14 equations, and modules depicting gender stereotypes⁶;

15 WHEREAS, around 4.4 million Filipino learners were not enrolled as of late
16 2020.⁷ However, the Education Department dismissed the claims that there has been
17 massive dropout in students enrolled in distance learning by stating that such
18 allegations were misleading.⁸ The Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) refuted the

² Rosario, B. (16 August 2021). *COA finds deficiencies in DepEd management of P7.2-billion COVID-19 funds*. Retrieved 30 August 2021, from <https://mb.com.ph/2021/08/16/coa-finds-deficiencies-in-deped-management-of-p7-2-b-covid-19-funds/>

³ Aurelio, J. M. (17 August 2021). *COA Flags DepEd for Questionable Use of P8-B fund. 2021*. Retrieved 17 August 2021 from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1474524/coa-flags-deped-for-questionable-use-of-p8-b-fund>.

⁴ Hernando-Malipot M. (17 August 2021). *DepEd on COA report: Deficiencies sue to restricted mobility not corruption, negligence*. Retrieved on 29 August 2021 from <https://mb.com.ph/2021/08/17/deped-on-coa-report-deficiencies-due-to-restricted-mobility-not-corruption-negligence/>

⁵ Gonzales, C (23 October 2020). *DepEd finds 41 errors in self-learning modules*. Retrieved on 29 August 2021 from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1351671/deped-finds-41-errors-in-self-learning-modules>

⁶ Magsambol, B. (23 October 2021). *30 errors found in DepEd’s learning modules*. Retrieved on 29 August 2021 from <https://www.rappler.com/nation/errors-identified-deped-learning-modules-distance-learning>

⁷ Deiparine, C. (24 February 2021). *SWS: 4.4 million school-age Filipinos not enrolled as of late 2020*. Retrieved on 29 August 2020 from <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/02/24/2080112/sws-44-million-school-age-filipinos-not-enrolled-late-2020>

⁸ Deiparine, C. (26 January 2021). *DepEd says no signs yet of massive dropouts due to blending learning*. Retrieved on 30 August 2021 from <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/01/26/2073187/deped-says-no-signs-yet-massive-dropouts-due-blended-learning>

1 same and contended that “many students have barely shown up in online classes or have
2 hardly submitted their class requirements”⁹;

3 WHEREAS, a survey conducted last December 2020 by the Movement for Safe,
4 Equitable, Quality and Relevant Education (SEQuRE) showed that 70.9% of the
5 teachers “do not think or are not confident that the competencies set by the DepEd
6 under distance learning are actually being developed.” The teachers referred to the
7 current distance education set up as a “looming learning crisis.”¹⁰;

8 WHEREAS, a survey conducted from June 25 to July 2, 2021 by the same group
9 revealed that 74% of students under blended learning said that they learn less under the
10 alternative modes of instructions as compared with the traditional face-to-face setup.
11 The same survey showed that 52% of teachers stated that four (4) to six (6) in every 10
12 students lagged behind other students. SEQuRE described the current education system
13 as “grimmer” than the results of its December 2020 survey¹¹;

14 WHEREAS, according to DepEd Secretary Leonor Briones, the Philippines is the
15 “only country” in Southeast Asia that has yet to resume face-to-face learning amid the
16 pandemic¹²;

17 WHEREAS, despite the current health crisis in the country, the overall
18 management process, procedures, and transactions should not be delayed, and the
19 program should not be affected by the “setback” to ensure the continuity of students’
20 learning amidst the threat and uncertainties brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic¹³;

⁹ Deiparine, C. (28 January 2021). *Despite DepEd denial of mass dropout, student participation in classes’ waning – ACT*. Retrieved on 30 August 2021 from <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/01/28/2073719/despite-deped-denial-mass-dropout-student-participation-classes-waning-act>

¹⁰ Bernardo J. (17 February 2021) *Survey: Majority of teachers doubt if distance learning effective*. Retrieved on 30 August 2021 from <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/02/17/21/survey-majority-of-teachers-doubt-if-distance-learning-effective>

¹¹ Bernardo, J. (15 July 2021). *Majority of students say they learned less under remote learning: survey*. Retrieved on 29 August 2021 from <https://news.abs-cbn.com/spotlight/07/15/21/majority-students-learned-less-remote-learning-survey>

¹² Hernando-Malipot M. *PH the ‘only country’ in Southeast Asia without face-to-face classes, DepEd says*. Retrieved on 29 August 2021 from <https://mb.com.ph/2021/02/18/ph-the-only-country-in-southeast-asia-without-face-to-face-classes-deped-says/>

¹³ Casilao, J.L. (17 August 2021). *COA Flags DepEd over P8B Deficiencies in BE-LCP Fund*. Retrieved 17 August 2021 from <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/799661/coa-flags-deped-over-p8b-deficiencies-in-be-lcp-fund/story/>

1 WHEREAS, this pandemic highlighted the existing and worsening education
2 problems in the country and it is crucial that the State protect its learners by finding
3 solutions for these apparent lapses and gaps and also by ensuring that funds are
4 appropriately utilized for the betterment of the youth;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, to direct the
6 appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the
7 deficiencies in the utilization of the P8.136 billion funds for the DepEd's Basic
8 Education-Learning Continuity Program (BE-LCP) during the pandemic as revealed in
9 the 2020 COA Report.

Adopted,


BEILA M. DE LIMA