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SENATE  
P.S. Resolution No. 53

RECEIVED BY: Jay

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Introduced by Senator Panfilo M. Lacson

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE OF THE SENATE TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE RECURRING PROBLEM OF FACTUAL AND CONCEPTUAL ERRORS IN TEXTBOOKS USED IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF PROPOSING REMEDIAL LEGISLATION FOR THE PURPOSE**

*WHEREAS*, Section 1, Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution provides that “*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*, it has been reported that the government had spent around P3.42 billion on textbooks and instructional materials in 2005 and 2006;

*WHEREAS*, the Arroyo administration, with the assistance of the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, launched the *Education for All Program*, which aims to build more schools, train teachers, and strengthen competencies in the core subjects of English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Filipino;

*WHEREAS*, under the *Education for All Program*, 11.9 million books were published with a cost of P500 million.

*WHEREAS*, the World Bank also financed the \$200 million *Second Social Expenditure Management Project* (SEMP2), which also aims to solve the shortage of textbooks in public schools in the country;

*WHEREAS*, in the SEMP2 Status of Suppliers, a lion share of 75.96% or 2.659 billion of the 3.5 billion budget for textbooks-teachers’ manuals (TX-TM) had been monopolized by a few publishing groups;

*WHEREAS*, on 23 January 2007, the Senate Sub-Committee on Education, Arts and Culture, under the Chairmanship of this representation, conducted a public hearing on four Senate Resolutions dealing with the controversies surrounding the textbook procurement program of the Department of Education (DepEd) as well as the deplorable quality of these textbooks;

*WHEREAS*, during the said Senate hearing, Mr. Antonio Calipjo Go, the academic supervisor of Marian School and a known crusader for textbook reforms, detailed the factual and conceptual errors he had uncovered upon review of the seven (7) books published under the \$200 million SEMP2 program;

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Calipjo Go further added that around 50% of the published books were defective and riddled with factual, conceptual, and language errors;

**WHEREAS**, in the same public hearing, representatives from DepEd assured this representation that the department will look into the identified errors and they even requested Mr. Calipjo Go's assistance in formulating the appropriate steps to rectify the same;

**WHEREAS**, on 30 June 2007, the DepEd finally released its 21-page "**Errata Guide**" to correct the factual, grammatical, and other errors in 11 social studies textbooks and teachers' manuals issued earlier to 43,000 public elementary schools nationwide;

**WHEREAS**, upon closer examination, it was shown that the *Errata Guide* still failed to substantially correct the errors found in the said textbooks;

**WHEREAS**, the Deped will have a budget of P4.23 billion for the procurement of 70,602,573 textbooks and other instructional materials for the next two years;


**WHEREAS**, this cycle of producing substandard textbooks to the detriment of Filipino students needs to be stopped before it completely erodes our country's educational system;

**WHEREAS**, it is imperative that effective sanctions, including but not limited to imposition of fines, blacklisting, and permanent disqualification from succeeding biddings, be imposed upon errant publishers who have a track record of producing low quality and error-riddled textbooks;

**WHEREAS**, there is an urgency to arrest the declining quality of textbooks being distributed in our public schools by instituting stringent reforms in the textbook procurement system; Now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, to direct as it hereby directs the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation on the recurring problem of the textbook procurement system of the Department of Education with the end in view of providing remedial legislation to resolve the recurring problem of substandard textbooks in public schools.

Adopted,

  
**PANFILO M. LACSON**  
*Senator*