

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

6 JUL 26 P5:00

SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 520

RECEIVED BY: JG

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION  
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,  
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE DECLINING FILIPINO LANGUAGE  
PROFICIENCY OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 14, Section 6, provides that: "The national language of the Philippines is Filipino. As it evolves, it shall be further developed and enriched on the basis of existing Philippine and other languages. Subject to provisions of law and as the Congress may deem appropriate, the Government shall take steps to initiate and sustain the use of Filipino as a medium of official communication and as language of instruction in the educational system";

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, in its 7 March 2006 issue, reported that the proficiency of our fourth year high school students on our national language has been significantly declining over the past few years, as proven by the results of the National Achievement Tests (NAT) conducted by the Department of Education (DepEd);

WHEREAS, in 2005, students scored 42.48% in the NAT, down from 61.26% in 2001;

WHEREAS, a score of 50% to 75% in any subject means a student has "near mastery" in that subject; a score of 50% and below is considered "below mastery" level;

WHEREAS, DepEd officer in charge Secretary Fe Hidalgo cited three possible factors causing this decline: the DepEd's focus on English, science, and mathematics; large classroom sizes; and the lack of good teaching and instruction materials;

WHEREAS, this decline of our students' mastery of Filipino is alarming for it depreciates the value of our national language as the vessel of our cultural heritage and identity as a people; now be it

RESOLVED, that the proper Senate Committee shall conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the declining Filipino language proficiency of high school students;

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO