

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

6 JUL 27 19:27

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: JB

P.S. RES NO. 532

Introduced by **SENATOR COMPAÑERA PIA S. CAYETANO**

**A RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED LEAKAGE IN THE 2006
NURSING BOARD EXAMINATION**

Whereas, Section 2(1), Article XIV of the Constitution provides that the State shall establish, maintain, and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the people and society;

Whereas, Section 1, Article XI of the Constitution provides that public office is a public trust. Public officers and employees must at all times be accountable to the people, serve them with utmost responsibility, integrity, loyalty and efficiency, act with patriotism and justice, and lead modest lives;

Whereas, the Professional Regulatory Commission (PRC) and Commission on Higher Education (CHED) are the government agencies legally mandated to oversee and regulate nursing education in the country as well as in implementing the provisions of the Nursing Law;

Whereas, the country is reportedly one of the major exporter of nurses to the world;

Whereas, seventy percent (70%) of Filipino nurses are working overseas;¹

Whereas, the number of nursing schools all over the country has increased from 251 in June 2003 to 310 in August 2004;²

Whereas, the increase in nursing schools has not led to a corresponding increase in the number of qualified nurses passing the national nursing licensure examinations;³

Whereas, in the 1970's and 80's, the proportion of nursing graduates passing the national nursing licensure examinations was somewhere between 80 percent to 90 percent;⁴

¹ The Brain Drain Phenomenon and Its Implications for Health: 10 Strategic Solutions for Action by Filipino Leaders, Jaime Z. Galvez Tan et al.

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Ibid.*

Whereas, since 1994, the passing mark has been below 61 percent and in 2001-2003, reached a low of 44 percent to 53 percent;⁵

Whereas, in June 2005, only 12,843, or 49.4 percent, of the 26,000 examinees passed the nursing licensure exams administered by the Board of Nursing;

Whereas, the 2006 Nursing Board Examination was conducted on June 11 and 12, 2006;

Whereas, several nursing graduates petitioned the Professional Regulatory Commission (PRC) to put members of the Board of Nursing "under preventive suspension" for test leaks that were allegedly distributed before the scheduled date for examination;

Whereas, news reports of the test leakage came out after an examinee, who declined to identify herself, revealed that a review center in Baguio City handed out test questions that appeared in the exam;

Whereas, the owner of the review center admitted that the center allowed the circulation of an 18-page manuscript, which was received through fax, to its students a day before the examination dates;

Whereas, there were around forty-six thousand (46,000) nursing students who took the exam held nationwide, with some six thousand (6,000) of them in Baguio.

Whereas, two thousand (2,000) out of the six thousand (6,000) examinees in Baguio took review classes at the said review center and received copies of the said review handout;

Whereas, the integrity of all professional examinations, particularly those which have an impact on the quality of health care services, should not be compromised and should be upheld at all times and at all cost;

Whereas, this incident is a manifestation of the country's highly commercialized and export-oriented nursing education due to the proliferation of substandard nursing schools and review centers;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the alleged leakage in the 2006 Nursing Board Examination.

Adopted,


COMPAÑERA PIA S. CAYETANO
Senator

⁵ *Ibid.*