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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1271

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED NECESSITY TO IMPROVE THE
PHILIPPINES' HUMAN RESOURCE BASE THROUGH INNOVATIVE
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOCUSED ON SCIENCE, MATH, AND
ENGINEERING

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, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 9 further provides: "The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all";

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* in its 2 August 2009 issue reported that according to the latest *World Competitiveness Yearbook*, a study jointly published in the country by AIM and the International Institute for Management Development, the Philippines is the worst performer in Asia in terms of science education; the country also posted the second lowest score, topping only Indonesia, in the basic research aspect;

WHEREAS, the Philippines also ranked low in technological infrastructure (35th out of 57 countries) and scientific infrastructure (56th place) subcategories; the low ranking in scientific infrastructure, in particular, should be a cause for concern as this was attributed to the country's poor showing in the basic scientific research and education criteria for the subcategory;

WHEREAS, according to Executive Director Federico Macaranas of the Asian Institute of Management Policy Center, the Philippines should strengthen its human resource base by focusing on education, particularly in the sciences, if it wants to climb up the global competitiveness ladder;

WHEREAS, one of the biggest bottlenecks to the country's progress is its weak grasp of technical and scientific knowledge;

WHEREAS, there is a pressing need for innovation, which could only come about with a stronger human capital base and to achieve this the country should place more emphasis on science, math and engineering in its overall educational program;

WHEREAS, there should also be a push for Service Science Management Engineering (SSME), a program that is aimed to produce both technically skilled and socially equipped individuals in order to improve services innovation and quality;

WHEREAS, this is the kind of discipline that brings together scientific understanding, engineering principles and management practices to design, create and deliver service systems;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the necessity of improving its human resource base through innovative educational programs focused on science, math, engineering.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/dpm