

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



Senate
Office of the Secretary

'13 JUL 31 P1:57

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 132

PREPARED BY: *ja*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED 61,510 TEACHING POSITIONS
UNFILLED BY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ONE MONTH AFTER THE
OPENING OF THE 2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 17 states: "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, according to a news report from the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* dated 12 July 2013, the Department of Education (DepEd) has yet to fill up all the 61,510 new teacher positions created in its P293.32 billion budget for the year;

WHEREAS, it was reported that as of July 2013, DepEd has hired only 55,848 teachers for the country's more than 46,000 public schools;

WHEREAS, previous reports state that DepEd announced a shortage of 145,000 teachers in public schools as of 2010, which is the backlog in the number of teachers that should have been hired in the past several years;

WHEREAS, as of February of this year, 36,923 teachers were reported to have been hired on top of the 61,510 new teachers that were supposed to start teaching last June;

WHEREAS, DepEd officials said that they need to hire more than 10,000 new teachers each year to meet the additional 2 million new students in public schools annually, a number that also increases per year;

WHEREAS, despite this, DepEd officials said the agency has hastened the recruitment and hiring process by working closely with the Civil Service Commission (CSC) and the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) to reduce the process from eight months to five;

WHEREAS, the lengthy recruitment and hiring process were said to come from verifying and certifying the license of hired teachers;

WHEREAS, especially since Republic Act No., 10533, also known as The Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013 or the K-to-12 Act, was passed early this year, government should promptly respond to the shortage of teachers especially in public schools to fill up positions created by the new law;

WHEREAS, the training of teachers for handling additional school levels R. A. No. 10533 would presumably compound with the lengthy recruitment and hiring process, further delaying the influx of teaching professionals in public schools;

WHEREAS, Congress should formulate policy to compensate and complement the laws it passed, and therefore should come up with legislation to immediately fill up the vacant teaching positions for public schools by streamlining the recruitment and hiring process of teachers without sacrificing the quality of their skills;

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 reported 61,510 teaching positions unfilled by Department of Education one month after the opening of the 2013-2014 school year.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/tt