

SENATE

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P.S. Res. No. 501

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XASULLAN

Introduced by Senators Juan Miguel F. Zubiri, Sonny M. Angara,
Joseph Victor G. Ejercito, Sherwin T. Gatchalian, Richard J. Gordon
Loren B. Legarda and Joel Villanueva

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE AND THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, *IN AID OF LEGISLATION*, ON DIRECTIVES OF THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION ORDERING THE CLOSURE OF SEVERAL EXTERNAL STUDIES CENTERS OF THE BUKIDNON STATE UNIVERSITY IN NORTHERN MINDANAO, DAVAO, AND CARAGA REGIONS AND THE POSSIBLE DISPLACEMENT OF THOUSANDS OF MARGINALIZED STUDENTS BROUGHT FORTH BY SAID DIRECTIVE

WHEREAS, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) issued orders which call for the closure of several Bukidnon State University-External Studies Centers (BukSU-ESC) in Northern Mindanao, Davao, and CARAGA Regions;

WHEREAS, on 27 April 2015, CHED issued Resolution No. 338-2015 directing the phase out of several BukSU-ESCs in Misamis Oriental starting School Year 2016-2017, hence the non-admission of some campuses in the entry of freshmen students and operating only to facilitate the graduation of the current enrollees;

WHEREAS, there are eighteen (18) ESCs established and operated by the BukSU in the provinces of Bukidnon and Misamis Oriental, ten (10) of which were already existing prior to the creation of CHED in 1994 while eight (8) were established beginning 1994;

WHEREAS, the BukSU-ESCs for decades have provided access to tertiary education to the underprivileged and the marginalized including the children of farmers and fisherfolk, indigenous people, working and married students, and household helps;

WHEREAS, the BukSU-ESCs have offered courses including Elementary and Secondary Education, Business and Public Administration, Economics, and Social Science and have produced graduates who are respected in various fields such as the academe, police force, business and economic sectors;

WHEREAS, the Department of Education for instance has 1,508 public school teachers in the Divisions of Misamis Oriental and the Cities of Gingoog and El Salvador, all of whom are products of the BukSU-ESCs system;

WHEREAS, the operation of the BukSU-ESCs is a tangible anti-poverty alleviation program and promotes a laudable policy of inclusiveness especially in poverty-stricken areas where the proximity of the nearest higher education institutions

remains a challenge;

WHEREAS, while the CHED created a technical working group to address the issues raised by the stakeholders in the closure of the BukSU-ESCs, there is no clear plan of action yet to ensure that the existing enrollees and incoming freshmen who will graduate from the K to 12 Education Program Transition Period shall be accommodated and given access to affordable college education;

WHEREAS, there is a need to probe into this matter as CHED Resolution No. 338-2015 threatens to displace thousands of students depending on the accessible and affordable higher education through the BukSU-ESCs;

RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Senate directs the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture and the appropriate Senate Committees to conduct an investigation, *in aid of legislation*, on directives of the Commission on Higher Education ordering the closure of several External Studies Centers of the Bukidnon State University in Northern Mindanao, Davao, and CARAGA regions and the possible displacement of thousands of marginalized students brought forth by said directive.

Adopted,



JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI



LOREN B. LEGARDA



SONNY M. ANGARA



JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO



SHERWIN T. GATCHALIAN



JOEL VILLANUEVA



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