



Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE GOVERNMENT'S LONG-TERM PLAN OF ACTION ON THE DISPLACED STUDENTS OF THE 55 SCHOOLS FOR INDIGENOUS CHILDREN TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENACTING LEGISLATIVE MEASURES ADDRESSING THE PLIGHT OF DISPLACED STUDENTS

WHEREAS, Department of Education (DepEd) Region XI issued an order to temporarily suspend the permits to operate of 55 Lumad schools in Davao Region¹;

WHEREAS, DepEd Region XI issued the suspension order to the affected Lumad schools based on the recommendation of National Security Adviser (NSA) Hermogenes Esperon, Jr. who alleged that these schools are teaching left-leaning ideologies²;

WHEREAS, Education Secretary Leonor Briones, in a press conference, explained that the main reason for suspending the permits to operate of the schools owned by Salugpungan Ta'Tanu Igkanogon Community Learning Centers is that they failed to comply with the requirements set by the DepEd³;

WHEREAS, according to DepEd Undersecretary Nepomuceno Malaluan, that while the suspension order was issued to 55 schools, only about 22 schools are affected, for some of these schools have been closed even before the suspension order was issued due to lack of students, among others⁴;

WHEREAS, data from DepEd Region XI showed that at least 1, 142 learners are affected in the 55 schools⁵;

WHEREAS, in an effort to ensure that the displaced learners will continue their studies. DepEd has directed nearby public schools to accept the students⁶;

¹ Manila Bulletin News Website, DepEd explains suspension of 55 Lumad schools, <https://news.mb.com.ph/2019/07/18/depd-explains-suspension-of-55-lumad-schools/>

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Manila Bulletin News Website, Students displaced by closure of lumad schools will be taken in by other schools – DepEd, <https://news.mb.com.ph/2019/07/19/students-displaced-by-closure-of-lumad-schools-will-be-taken-in-by-other-schools-deped/>

⁶ Ibid.

WHEREAS, DepEd Undersecretary Atty. Nepomuceno Malaluan cited that part of the order issued by DepEd Region 11 Officer-in-Charge Evelyn Fetalvero was to “ensure that the students shall be accommodated in all nearby DepEd schools⁷;

WHEREAS, this directive, Malaluan said, was the same arrangement for learners who were displaced by months-long siege in Marawi City in 2017⁸;

WHEREAS, according to the Child Right’s Network, these children are among those who have the least access to schools and in dire need of culturally appropriate institutions that offer free basic education⁹;

WHEREAS, there is a need to assess the present policies and mechanisms regarding displaced students;

WHEREAS, the national interest requires that the government undertake necessary and appropriate steps to ensure the provision of accessible and quality education to all Filipinos;

BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED to direct the appropriate Senate committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the government’s long-term plan of action on the displaced students of the 55 schools for indigenous children temporarily suspended by the Department of Education, with the end in view of enacting legislative measure addressing the plight of displaced students.

Adopted,



MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY
Senator

⁷ Manila Bulletin News Website, Students displaced by closure of Lumad schools will be taken in by other schools – DepEd, <https://news.mb.com.ph/2019/07/19/students-displaced-by-closure-of-lumad-schools-will-be-taken-in-by-other-schools-deped/>

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Manila Bulletin News Website, Children’s welfare group asks DepEd to lift suspension of 55 lumad schools in Davao, <https://news.mb.com.ph/2019/07/27/childrens-welfare-group-asks-deped-to-lift-suspension-of-55-lumad-schools-in-davao/>