



Senate

Office of the Secretary

SENATE
P. S. Res No. 228

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Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

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RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, REGARDING THE STATUS OF BASIC
AND FUNCTIONAL LITERACY OF FILIPINOS

1 WHEREAS, the 2013 Functional Literacy, Education and Mass Media Survey
2 (FLEMMS) covered around 36 million Filipinos aged 6 to 24 years. According to the
3 survey, 96.5 percent of 74 million Filipinos 10 years old and over were basically
4 literate and nine out of ten Filipinos were functionally literate (90.3%)¹;

5 WHEREAS, this report provides baseline information on education and literacy
6 status of the population 10 years and over. It is intended to be a reliable baseline to
7 inform the formulation and monitoring of wide range of policies and programs
8 related to education and literacy and as advocacy tool for national policies and
9 development plans²;

10 WHEREAS, basic or simple literacy is the ability of a person to read and write
11 with understanding a simple message in any language or dialect³;

12 WHEREAS, functional literacy is defined as significantly higher level of literacy
13 which includes not only reading and writing but also numeracy skills. The skills must
14 be sufficiently advanced to enable the individual to participate fully and efficiently in
15 activities commonly occurring in his life situation that require a reasonable capability
16 of communicating by written language. A functional literate person is one who can at

¹ Philippine Statistics Office Website, 2013 Functional Literacy, Education and Mass Media Survey, <https://psa.gov.ph/sites/default/files/2013%20FLEMMS%20Final%20Report.pdf>

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

17 least read, write, compute and/or comprehend. Also, persons who graduated from
18 high school or completed higher level of education are classified as functionally
19 literate⁴;

20 WHEREAS, according to the report 68.3 percent of the estimated 36 million
21 population 6 to 24 years old were attending school during the school year covering
22 June 2013 to March 2014⁵;

23 WHEREAS, the World Bank 2019 Report on Alternative Learning in the
24 Philippines indicated that the Philippines has made remarkable progress in improving
25 its public basic education system over the past decade, yet half of Filipino students
26 fail to complete the full cycle of basic education⁶;

27 WHEREAS, the World Bank Report added that illiteracy remains an important
28 barrier to poverty alleviation, and lifetime earnings are closely correlated with
29 educational attainment across countries and regions⁷;

30 WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to address these matter for developing
31 countries like the Republic of the Philippines must focus on raising the functional
32 literacy rate of the country to improve the socioeconomic status of Filipinos;

33 BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the proper Senate
34 Committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, regarding the status of basic
35 and functional literacy of Filipinos.

Adopted,


MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY
Senator

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ World Bank Website, The Philippines Alternative Learning System,
<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/539131530792186404/pdf/127978-REVISED-ALS-PolicyNote-May2018-rev5.pdf>

⁷ Ibid.