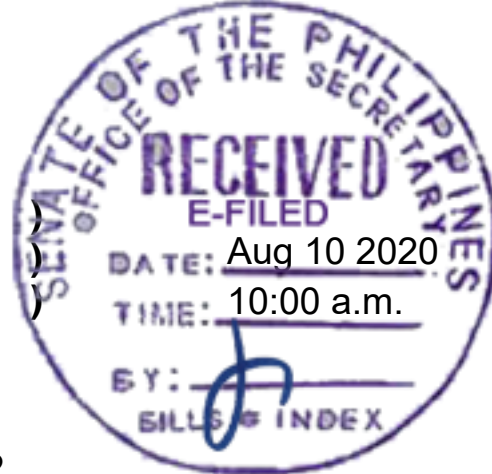


**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**
Second Regular Session



SENATE

P. S. RES. NO 492

Introduced by **SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA**

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HIGHER, TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND BASIC EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON HOW THE EDUCATION SECTOR PLANS TO ADAPT TO THE NEW NORMAL WITH A VIEW TO PROMULGATING COORDINATED POLICIES THAT WILL DEMONSTRATE A SYNCHRONIZED APPROACH TO EDUCATION RESPONSES TO THE NEW NORMAL

WHEREAS, the Congressional Committee on Education (EDCOM) trifocalized the Philippine Education System into the Department of Education (DepEd), the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to focus programs, management, systems and resources into specific educational subsectors for clarity of directions and standards and efficiency in approaches to serve specific clientele;

WHEREAS, the DepEd, TESDA and CHED operationalized educational systems appropriate for their specific clientele. Over time, however, the need for greater coordination among these agencies and a more harmonized approach to total education planning and resource allocation become necessary;

WHEREAS, natural and man-made calamities, such as typhoons and floods, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and most recently, a public health emergency caused by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) highlighted the long-overdue need for coordination or synchronization in our education sector;

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic caused the abrupt suspension of classes at all levels and adjournment of the academic or school year 2019-2020, following the imposition of Enhanced Community Quarantine;

WHEREAS, the protracted COVID-19 pandemic convinced all authorities that the vulnerabilities and uncertainties of disasters and calamities have driven us to a “new normal” and require a more coordinated government response;

WHEREAS, the three education agencies adapted to the government directions for mitigating the impact of the crisis in three phases, namely, survival, transitional and structural for the new normal;

WHEREAS, the three education agencies crafted their structural strategies separately and specific to their traditional programs while focusing on changing and adapting their delivery modes and program timelines in light of the new normal;

WHEREAS, isolation and quarantine created an arena for confusion and anxiety over the proposed adaptation in new normal education. The prime example of this is the shift from the traditional face-to-face learning to online learning, to flexible learning, and to what is now called distance learning, blended learning and modular learning;

WHEREAS, the uncoordinated approaches and fragmented policies undertaken by the three education agencies, as evident in, among others, the use of different terminologies on the learning methodology, have generated confusion and resistance on the part of the millions of learners in the country and their parents, as well as on the thousands of teachers who are supposed to ensure continuous learning for our students;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Senate Committees on Higher and Technical and Vocational Education and Basic Education, Arts and Culture, conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on how the education sector plans to adapt to the new normal with a view to promulgating coordinated policies that will demonstrate a synchronized approach to education responses to the new normal.

Adopted,


SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA