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**REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES** )  
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SENATE

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**SENATE**  
**P. S. RES. No. 792**

RECEIVED BY \_\_\_\_\_

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**Introduced by Senator Francis "Tol" N. Tolentino**

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE REMEDIAL MEASURES THAT MAY BE INSTITUTED IN RESPONSE TO THE 2021 WORLD BANK REPORT ON THE PHILIPPINE EDUCATION SYSTEM, WITH THE AIM OF IMPROVING THE K-12 PROGRAM UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10533**

**WHEREAS**, last 29 June 2021, the World Bank published a report entitled "Improving Student Learning Outcomes and Well-Being in the Philippines: What Are International Assessments Telling Us? (Vol.2): Synthesis Report Presentation" (the report), stating that over 80% of Filipino students fall below minimum proficiency levels. The report said that more than 80% of children in the Philippines "do not know what they should know in school";<sup>1</sup>

**WHEREAS**, the report was based on three assessments where the Philippines had participated, namely, the Program for International Student (Pisa) in 2018, the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) in 2019, and the first cycle of the Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics (SEA-PLM) in 2019. Across the three global assessments, the World Bank said, only 10% to 22% of Grades 4, 5, and 9 students in the Philippines posted scores "at or above minimum proficiency";<sup>2</sup>

**WHEREAS**, Secretary of Education Leonor Briones demanded an apology from the World Bank, claiming that the latter did not follow protocols before releasing the report and that the report was based on outdated data;<sup>3</sup>

**WHEREAS**, on 9 July 2021, the World Bank issued an apology for publishing the report earlier than scheduled and for not giving the Department of Education a chance to provide its

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1145626>; <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1453814/wb-80-of-ph-kids-dont-know-what-they-should-know>

<sup>2</sup> Id.; <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/07/05/21/world-bank-pisa-filipino-students-proficiency-deped>

<sup>3</sup> Id.

input.<sup>4</sup> The World Bank has temporarily removed the report from its website.<sup>5</sup> President Rodrigo Duterte has accepted the World Bank's apology;<sup>6</sup>

**WHEREAS**, notwithstanding the apology given by the World Bank, the report, which is based on pre-COVID-19 pandemic assessments from 2018 and 2019, contains data supporting the need for remedial measures on the part of the Department of Education and other stakeholders for the development of the country's education system;

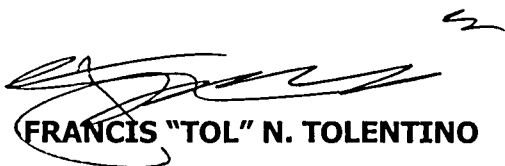
**WHEREAS**, for instance, the report stated that the low proficiency levels of Filipino students is exacerbated by rampant student bullying, hunger incidence, lack of facilities, and other safety issues;<sup>7</sup>

**WHEREAS**, a similar report recently published by the ADB Institute stated that based on 2003, 2013, and 2019 data, "a substantial share of Grade 10 students still do not have foundational mathematics or reading skills. This shows that like many countries, the amount of learning produced for each year of schooling in the Philippines is very low";<sup>8</sup>

**WHEREAS**, the situation calls for the Department of Education, educational institutions, and other stakeholders to conduct an extensive assessment of the country's educational system and to institute programs, projects, and other measures to reform and improve Philippine education for the benefit of generations of Filipino children;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an investigation in aid of legislation on the remedial measures that may be instituted in response to the 2021 World Bank Report on the Philippine education system, with the aim of improving the K-12 program under RA No. 10533.

Adopted,

  
**FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO**

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<sup>4</sup> <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/07/13/21/duterte-on-world-banks-ph-education-status-report-apology-welcomed>

<sup>5</sup> <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2021/7/9/World-Bank-apologizes-PH-education-report.html>;

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1458818/duterte-welcomes-world-banks-apology-expects-more-accurate-report>;

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/07/13/news/duterte-accepts-world-bank-apology-over-report-on-status-of-ph-education/1806840>; <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1146490>; <https://www.bworldonline.com/world-bank-apologizes-over-inadvertent-release-of-philippine-education-report/>; <https://www.rappler.com/nation/world-bank-apology-philippines-education-report-july-2021>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/07/13/news/duterte-accepts-world-bank-apology-over-report-on-status-of-ph-education/1806840>; <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/07/13/21/duterte-on-world-banks-ph-education-status-report-apology-welcomed>

<sup>7</sup> Id.

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.philstar.com/business/2021/07/16/2112766/she-still-doesnt-get-it>