


THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )

6 MAY 24 P131

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

P.S. Res. No. 486

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Introduced by Senator Manny Villar

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE ALLEGED SUB-STANDARD ENGLISH SKILLS OF FILIPINO COLLEGE GRADUATES, WITH THE END VIEW OF RECOMMENDING POLICY MEASURES TO ADDRESS THE RAPID DECLINE IN FILIPINOS' ENGLISH COMPETENCY**

**WHEREAS**, the European Chamber of Commerce said 75 percent of the Philippines' annual 400,000 college graduates have "sub-standard English skills";

**WHEREAS**, only six percent of people interviewed for jobs in call centers had the required skills in English, according to The Wallace Business Forum which regularly surveys foreign businesses in the country. Call Center Academy accent trainer Matthew Gray said Filipinos have lapses with their tenses, verb usage, and subject-verb agreement;

**WHEREAS**, in recent years, the country has helped win outsourcing contracts in the booming business process and call center sectors, one of the few areas of the nation's economy that is actually expanding. But that lifeline appears a tenuous one as fears surface over a sharp decline in English compounded by falling school standards and a mass exodus of linguistically skilled professionals;

**WHEREAS**, some sectors say employment of Filipinos overseas will soon be overtaken by China and India, noting that Filipino engineers in the Middle East risk being dislodged by Indian and Chinese engineers who not only speak better English, but analyze and write reports in English better;


**WHEREAS**, official achievement tests given to graduating high school students in the 2004-2005 school year showed that only 6.59 percent could read, speak and comprehend English well enough to enter college. Some 44.25 percent had no English skills at all;

**WHEREAS**, President Arroyo has ordered the Department of Education to make English the primary medium of instruction nationwide to make Filipinos internationally competitive;

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to arrest the rapid decline in Filipinos' English competency to continue to attract foreign investors and to boost the competitiveness of the country's human resources both domestically and internationally;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the Senate Committee on Education, Arts and Culture to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the alleged sub-standard English skills of Filipino college graduates, with the end view of recommending policy measures to address the rapid decline in Filipinos' English competency.

Adopted,

  
**MANNY VILLAR**  
Senator