

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

6 JUL 26 25 11

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 520

RECEIVED BY: JS

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE
DECLINING ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY OF FILIPINOS

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 24 states that "The State recognizes the vital role of communication and information in nation-building";

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 14, Section 7 further provides that "For purposes of communication and instruction, the official languages of the Philippines are Filipino and, until otherwise provided by law, English x x x";

WHEREAS, compared to the results of its September 2000 survey, a recent nationwide survey by the Social Weather Stations (SWS) showed a decline in all aspects of English proficiency, most notably on the ability to speak English, among Filipinos;

WHEREAS, the March 2006 survey showed that about 65 percent of Filipino adults say they understand spoken English; another 65 percent say they read English; 48 percent say they can write in English; 32 percent say they speak English; 27 percent say they think in English; while 14 percent say they are not competent in any way when it comes to the English language;

WHEREAS, in September 2000, 77 percent of Filipino adults said they understand spoken English; 76 percent also said they read English; 61 percent said they can write in English; 54 percent said they speak English; 44 percent said they think in English; while 7 percent said they are not competent in any way when it comes to the English language;

WHEREAS, in a report entitled "Investment Climate Statements: 2005," the United States Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs said American investors are beginning to feel the decline of English language proficiency in the Philippines while the other Southeast Asian countries are improving;

WHEREAS, according to Brian Lane, vice president for sales and marketing of Lane Archive & Technologies, the drop in English proficiency threatens the Filipinos' key competitive edge in attracting investments in services and other sectors that rely heavily on the English language;

WHEREAS, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) reported that only three out of 100 applicants meet proficiency standards of the outsourcing industry; because of this, the industry was unable to fill 100,000 positions last year;

WHEREAS, Henry Schumacher, vice president of ECCP, added that improvements in English proficiency should be done in order to attract major players in the outsourcing sector, which covers services such as business process outsourcing, call

centers, medical transcription, and global logistics — services which are based on English competitiveness;

WHEREAS, it is the duty of the government to initiate programs which aims to improve the English proficiency of Filipinos to ensure the continuous flow in the country of investments that rely heavily on the use of the English language; now be it

RESOLVED, that the proper Senate committee shall conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the declining English language proficiency of Filipinos.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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