


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

8 JAN 15 2009

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 267

RECEIVED BY 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT
AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE DISMAL SITUATION OF
ARMM'S EDUCATION SECTOR

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Art. II, Sec. 17, provides: "The State shall give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development";

WHEREAS, it was reported in the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, in its 3 January 2008 issue, that a study conducted by the United States Assistance for International Development (USAID) found that the English language proficiency of a number of teachers in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) is equivalent to that of Grade 2 and 3 students in public elementary schools nationwide;

WHEREAS, the USAID is currently conducting its Education Quality and Access for Learning and Livelihood Skills (EQuALLS) program aimed at strengthening ARMM teachers' capacity for English, mathematics, and science at the elementary level among other goals; the program has a budget allocation of \$81 million or about P3.3 billion;

WHEREAS, the USAID report also stated that

- o ARMM "has the lowest student academic achievement owing largely to the poor competencies of teachers."
- o Only five percent of teachers in ARMM passed the Teachers' Licensure Examination compared to 31 percent of teachers in Luzon.
- o Only about one-third of children in ARMM starting elementary school are likely to complete the primary course on time; of those completing elementary school, only about half are likely to complete secondary school (or about one-fifth that of Luzon);
- o There are desks, chairs, and textbooks for only about 50% of the students.
- o Seventeen percent of students in Luzon passed the Science and Technology Undergraduate Scholarship Examinations while only one percent of ARMM students passed.

WHEREAS, seven of the 11 poorest performing schools in the country are located in Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, and Sulu, all in ARMM;

WHEREAS, the unstable peace and order situation, poverty, inadequate teacher-pupil ratio, and the limited learning resources in some of the schools were cited to be the perennial problems in ARMM's educational system;

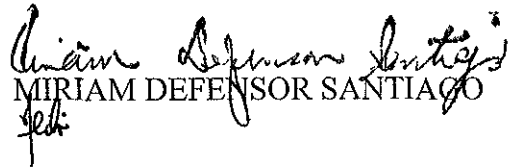
WHEREAS, despite government efforts coupled with that of USAID, ARMM's educational system continued to falter years after the establishment of the autonomous region;

WHEREAS, the dismal condition of ARMM's educational system has been found to be inextricably linked to the region's underdeveloped infrastructure, alarming poverty incidence, and other declining socioeconomic indicators;

WHEREAS, the nation's policy on education and on the ARMM should be reevaluated in order for the region's education sector to catch up with and even surpass its neighbors';

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the dismal situation of ARMM's education sector.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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