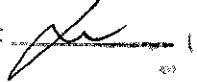


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

8 JUN 26 P2:06

SENATE
P. S. R. No. **459**

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, THE ALLEGED PROLIFERATION AND CONTINUED USE OF
ERROR-FILLED BOOKS IN PHILIPPINE SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 14, Section 1, provides that “The State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels, and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all”;

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* in its 10 June 2008 article reported that students returning to school found the same error-filled textbooks that a crusader against “sick books” has been trying to get rid of the past several years, but sadly failed;

WHEREAS, the article said that on May 19, Sec. Jesli Lapus of the Department of Education (DepEd) decided to act on one set of textbooks that Antonio Go has waged war on, issuing an order to bureau and regional directors, division and city superintendents and heads of private elementary schools;

WHEREAS, after a review and evaluation of several books by the Instructional Materials Council Secretariat (IMCS) of Phoenix Publishing House Inc., the same were found to contain major errors such as conceptual errors, factual errors, misleading or wrong illustrations, and insufficient discussion;

WHEREAS, as a result, Sec. Lapus issued an order that all private educational institutions in basic education are directed not to use the above-mentioned textbook series until the same are revised and passed the content evaluation by the DepEd;

WHEREAS, it was claimed that one week before the opening of classes, the Lapus order was circulated to those who were supposed to receive it and that the books used in some 200 private schools were not recalled and were continue to be sold”;

WHEREAS, Go, who earlier mounted a campaign against textbooks in public schools, allegedly went on the warpath against the Phoenix textbooks in January 2005 after a sales representative offered them for use in his school, but when he reviewed the 12 books, he found them defective and called the attention of the publisher, who much ignored him until media picked up the issue;

WHEREAS, it was reported that Phoenix president, Alegria Sibal-Limjoco, issued a statement saying she had submitted the 12 textbooks to the National Book Development Board (NBDB) and that correction books were being distributed nationwide;

WHEREAS, Mr. Go alleged that nothing has been done by the NBDB on the case and suspects that it was because Limjoco is a member of the board, which is headed by

Dennis Gonzalez, son of Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, who for some reason had harassed him for his crusade even when the father was still a congressman.;

WHEREAS, it was also reported that on Nov. 24, 2006, Phoenix filed a criminal case against Go for light threats, or extortion, and a civil suit seeking P3.5 million in damages for allegedly destroying its good name and reputation, but the criminal case was dismissed on 20 September 2007, while the civil action continues to drag on;

WHEREAS, Go claimed that the reprint of the books in 2007 cited in the Lapus order, contained much of the errors that he had exposed in a full-page newspaper ad paid out of his own pocket, on June 22, 2005, titled, tongue in cheek, "These Are Not Errors.";

WHEREAS, it was reported that Go was summoned to a meeting at the DepEd during which the IMCS, which investigated the issue he had raised, validated his findings—that the 12 Phoenix textbooks, first distributed in 2003, were shot through with errors;

WHEREAS, Phoenix lawyers attended the meeting, but instead of mounting a defense, dredged up the extortion case that the court had dismissed in an attempt to denigrate Go;

WHEREAS, Secretary Lapus allegedly said that he did not wish to be drawn to the controversy and that his concern was that the books were erroneous that was why he issued the 19 May 2008 order;

WHEREAS, the article finally claimed that unfortunately, the order never saw the light of day and that the Phoenix books have not been withdrawn from circulation;

WHEREAS, it is imperative that government be concerned with such an anomaly since erroneous textbooks could greatly affect the Filipino youth's education;

WHEREAS, the State should create stricter measures in monitoring the contents of textbooks, to avoid an abundance of errors that go beyond typographical errors, but also include factual and conceptual errors;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate committees to investigate, in aid of legislation, on the alleged proliferation and continued use of error-filled books in Philippine schools.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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