

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
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SENATE



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*[Signature]*

P.S. Res. No. **472**

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Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

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**RESOLUTION**

**CALLING ON THE SECRETARIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT TO IMMEDIATELY RELEASE PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS' BENEFITS, PARTICULARLY THEIR HARDSHIP ALLOWANCES**

*Whereas*, Article XIV, Section 5 of the Constitution provides that the State shall assign the highest budgetary priority to education and ensure that teaching will attract and retain its rightful share of the best available talents through adequate remuneration and other means of job satisfaction and fulfilment;

*Whereas*, Republic Act No. 4670, otherwise known as the Magna Carta for Public School Teachers, was enacted in June 18, 1966 to promote and improve the social and economic status of public school teachers, their living and working conditions, their terms of employment and career prospects in order that they may compare favorably with existing opportunities in other walks of life and attract and retain more people with proper qualifications in the teaching profession;

*Whereas*, Section 19 of the said law specifically provides that in areas in which teachers are exposed to hardship such as difficulty in commuting to the place of work or other hazards peculiar to the place of employment, as determined by the Secretary of Education, they shall be compensated with special hardship allowances equivalent to at least twenty-five per cent of their monthly salary;

*Whereas*, the 2008 General Appropriations Act contained an allotment of P185.928 million for the hardship pay of teachers, over a hundred million pesos higher than year-ago level;

*Whereas*, during the public hearing conducted by the Senate Committee on Education, Arts and Culture on May 23, 2008, it was revealed that the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) have not released the hardship allowances for school teachers despite their having been allocated in the national budget;

*Whereas*, in an official statement dated June 3, 2008 of the DBM, it clarified that in 2007, it issued National Budget Circular No. 514 to all DBM and DepEd Regional

Offices, providing guidelines on the grant of special hardship allowance to qualified personnel of DepEd;

*Whereas*, the DBM further asserted that the reason for the delay in the hardship allowances of teachers might be due to the difficulty in identifying those who are qualified to receive the benefit since it is not granted across the board;

*Whereas*, there is a clear manifestation that despite the enactment of the law and the corresponding guidelines thereon, administrative difficulties faced by the budget and education departments hinder the provision of better compensation to public school teachers;

*Whereas*, it is incumbent upon Congress to ensure that the public school teachers are afforded adequate remuneration and other means of job satisfaction and fulfilment, as guaranteed by the Constitution;

*Whereas*, the DepEd and the DBM should undertake efforts that will resolve the delays in the payment of hardship allowances to qualified personnel of the DepEd;

***NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED***, by the Senate of the Philippines, to call on the Secretaries of the Department of Education and the Department of Budget and Management to immediately release public school teachers' benefits, particularly their hardship allowances.

**Adopted,**

  
**LOREN LEGARDA**  
Senator