

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

8 AUG 26 2006

SENATE P.S.R. No. **587**

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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RESOLUTION  
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF  
LEGISLATION, THE ALLEGED HUGE ALLOWANCES OF DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION (DEPED) EXECUTIVES

WHEREAS, Article 14, Section 5 (5) of the Constitution provides "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 fulfillment";

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, in an article entitled "Teachers Score DepEd Execs' Huge Allowances", dated 12 August 2008, it was reported that the Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) has joined non-teaching personnel at the Department of Education (DepEd) in demanding that the agency name the executives who benefited from the over P150 million in controversial "extra duty allowance" (EDA) over the past three years;

WHEREAS, alleged documents leaked to the newspaper showed the EDA, which allegedly is not covered by department guidelines and therefore has no legal basis, has been a regular feature of DepEd seminar and training programs;

WHEREAS, it was reported that during the April 14-16 "jury duty for eligibility check" of 50 DepEd bidders for the construction of various school buildings nationwide, P117,000 was earmarked for EDA (out of the total activity budget of P139,700);

WHEREAS, the report claimed that among the EDA recipients were Assistant Secretary for Finance Jesus Galvan, vice chair of the DepEd bids and awards committee, and panel members Annabelle Ramos and Deogracias Genito Jr., as well as Adonis Barraquias, chief of the BAC secretariat, among others;

WHEREAS, it was alleged that of the P9.16-million budget for the nationwide Teachers Induction Program, at least P1.12 million was allocated for EDA by Dr. Beatriz Torno, executive director of the DepEd-attached Teacher Education Council and of the nearly P1-million budget for the Personnel and Professional Enhancement Program, P136,000 was set aside for EDA by Zaida Azcueta, head of DepEd's Staff Development Division and Human Resource Development Service;

WHEREAS, the article also reported that of the P682,580 budget for the Library Management Training for Regions 3, 4-A and 4-B, P115,000 was allocated to EDA and for the Field Testing of Basic Administrative Service Improvement Course 1 for Regions 9, 10, 11, 12, Caraga and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, P178,000 was set aside for EDA;

WHEREAS, it was also claimed that in the Bureau of Elementary Education's Every Child a Reader training program, which has a budget of P4.38 million, P760,000 was set aside for EDA and in the P8.75-million basic course for new "mobile teachers" of the Bureau of Alternative Learning System, P238,000 was allocated to the EDA of trainers and facilitators;

WHEREAS, allegedly released a statement asking the DepEd to involve independent teacher groups in the formulation of guidelines to provide a genuine check against possible abuses by management. ACT chair Antonio Tinio allegedly said they were "outraged that while some DepEd executives helped themselves to up to P50 million (a year) in unlawful allowances, nearly P700 million in allowances of public school teachers remained unpaid";

WHEREAS, DepEd Secretary Jesli Lapus last week reportedly said that all EDA payments has been suspended as part of the streamlining operations of the department and that he had directed Teodosio Sangil Jr., undersecretary for finance and administration, to come up with EDA guidelines;

WHEREAS, DepEd insiders allegedly claimed that "for taking part, in department-sponsored seminars and training programs, an undisclosed number of DepEd officials have been charging up to P15,000 a day in EDA and that some top agency officials attend an average of four to eight training programs a month where they receive from P10,000 to P15,000 for merely making opening or closing remarks" although delivering a brief speech or sharing their views on DepEd-related topics are part of their official functions;

WHEREAS, according to a DepEd section head, even ordinary DepEd employees are afflicted with the EDA "virus," citing as an example a casual employee, with a P6,000 basic monthly pay, made a total of P72,000 in just three weeks by serving in the secretariat staff for three activities;

WHEREAS, considering that for the past three years alone, the DepEd allocated over P3.43 billion for its various training programs, it is but proper to demand full transparency and proper accounting of the alleged outrageous perks and privileges enjoyed by DepEd executives;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate committees to investigate, in aid of legislation, the alleged huge allowances of Department of Education executives.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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