


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

8 MAY 19 2008

SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 404

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION  
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,  
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE EXCESSIVE SCHOOL FEES CHARGED TO  
STUDENTS OF PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS AND PUBLIC HIGH  
SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 17, provides that, "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, Article 14, Section 1 of the same, 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, Article 2, Section 2, paragraph 2, of the same, provides that, "The State shall establish and maintain a system of free public education in the elementary and high school levels. Without limiting the natural rights of parents to rear their children, elementary education is compulsory for all children of school age";

WHEREAS, Republic Act 6655, also known as the Free Public Secondary Education Act of 1988, Section 2, provides that "The system of free public secondary education as provided in this Act shall commence in School Year 1988-1989, and that the students enrolled in secondary course offerings in national and general comprehensive high schools, state colleges and universities, specialized schools, trade, technical, vocational, fishery and agricultural schools and in schools established, administered, maintained and funded by local government units, including city, provincial, municipal and barangay high schools and those public high schools which may be established by law, shall be free from payment of tuition and other school fees, except fees related to membership in the school community such as identification cards, student organizations and publication which may be collected: Provided, That nothing in this Act shall cause or authorize the reduction or removal of any benefit which the national or local government may have granted to the students, teachers and other school personnel of these public high schools prior to the enactment of this Act";

WHEREAS, *The Philippine Star* in its 14 May 2008 news article reported that Representative Carlos Padilla has pushed for a probe on excessive school fees;

WHEREAS, most government-run secondary schools charge additional fees and ask for contributions;

WHEREAS, complaints were made by parents of public elementary and high school students regarding fees that were beyond their capacity to pay;

WHEREAS, among the fees being exacted from parents of public high school students were monthly dues, contributions for the payment of monthly electric bills incurred by the school, as well as classroom and restroom maintenance fees, all of which add up to P100-P200 per month;

WHEREAS, according to Padilla, most of the fees charged in excess of the allowable fees include the Red Cross fee, and Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts of the Philippines fee, which were passed through resolutions of the Parent Teacher Community Associations;

WHEREAS, there were also instances where teachers or their superiors charged excessive fees for school projects, including those levied on graduating students as souvenirs of their stay in the school;

WHEREAS, with the rise of the prices of electricity, gas and other basic commodities, parents find it difficult to finance their children's education, often opting for their kids to work instead;

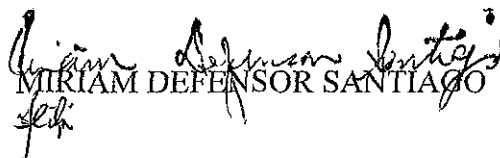
WHEREAS, it is the duty of the government to ensure that the basic right to free education is accessible to the Filipino youth;

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the government see to the strict implementation of laws that safeguard the right of the Filipino youth to quality and free education.

WHEREAS, the State should carefully study and create stricter guidelines and/or penalties with regard to the implementation of RA 6655;

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 excessive school fees charged to students of public elementary schools and public high schools.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
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