

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
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SENATE

P.S.R. No. 134

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR ALAN PETER "COMPAÑERO" S. CAYETANO

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTABILITY OF PUBLIC OFFICERS AND INVESTIGATIONS (BLUE RIBBON) TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PROCUREMENT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, THROUGH THE PROCUREMENT SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT, OF LAPTOPS FOR TEACHERS FOR USE IN DISTANCE LEARNING

WHEREAS, *Proverbs 29:2* states that "*when the righteous are praised, the people will rejoice: but when the ungodly rule, men mourn;*"

WHEREAS, the Filipino people have mourned government failure in curbing corruption in various administrations, including corruption issues involving fertilizer and farm inputs, information technology (IT) systems, transportation, medicines and health services, to name a few and, now, the possibility of an anomalous purchase of laptops;

WHEREAS, in order to build our nation, we have to stand for what is right. *Ang tama ay tama, at ang mali ay mali;*

WHEREAS, it is high time to meet the issues head-on, determine where accountability lies. *Dapat malaman ng taumbayan kung mayroong pagkakamali, saan nagkamali at paano maitatama ang mali;*

WHEREAS, on 11 September 2020, Congress, through Republic Act No. 11494 (Bayanihan II), appropriated the amount of Php 4 Billion to assist the Department of Education (DepEd) "in the implementation of Digital Education, Information Technology (IT) and Digital Infrastructures and Alternative Learning Modalities, including printing and delivery of self-learning modules of the DepEd;"¹

WHEREAS, Congress appropriated such amount to help those who have little or no means for alternative learning modalities, as the education sector moved from traditional face-to-face classes to distance learning in order to control the spread of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19);

¹ Section 10, par. (n) of R.A. No. 11494 or the "Bayanihan to Recover As One Act."

WHEREAS, computers, laptops, tablets, and other internet-ready devices are necessities in distance learning at the height of the pandemic;

WHEREAS, on 30 June 2021 the Procurement Service of the Department of Budget and Management (PS-DBM) awarded a contract worth Php 2.4 Billion for the purchase of laptops to the joint venture of Sunwest Construction and Development Corp., LDLA Marketing and Trading Inc., and others;

WHEREAS, in its Annual Audit Report for 2021, the Commission on Audit (COA) noted that “teachers’ laptops procured through the DBM-PS are pricey for an entry-level laptop” and, based on initial feedbacks gathered, are “too slow because the processor is Intel Celeron, which is outdated”;

WHEREAS, the pricey computer laptops with low-end processors “adversely decreased the number of intended beneficiaries from 68,500 to 39,583 public school teachers;”

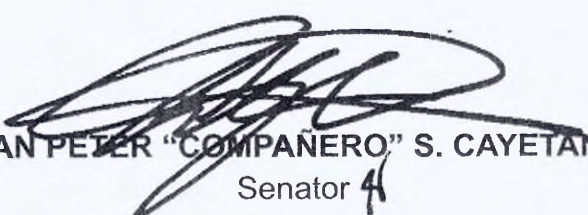
WHEREAS, a number of proposed bills have been filed in the 19th Congress to provide laptops, tablets, or other gadgets, including Senate Bill No. 1 or the “One Tablet, One Student Act of 2022” filed by Sen. Loren B. Legarda, and Senate Bill No. 258 or the “Karunungan Ating Paunlarin Act” filed by Sen. Ramon B. Revilla, Jr., which I and many senators support;

WHEREAS, considering the evident discrepancy between the Php 4 billion appropriation to assist the DepEd in the implementation of Digital Education, Information Technology (IT) and Digital Infrastructures and Alternative Learning Modalities, and the alleged overpriced and outdated laptops provided to the teachers, there is an urgent need for the Senate to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation on the issue. Furthermore, why did it take so long given the urgency of Bayanihan II for the procurement to take place;

WHEREAS, there is a pressing need to ensure that the hard-earned money of taxpayers are put to good use, especially during this time of pandemic, and that the goals of the Bayanihan to Recover As One Act are achieved;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES, to direct the Senate Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations (Blue Ribbon) to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the procurement by the Department of Education, through the Procurement Service of the Department of Budget and Management, of laptops for teachers for use in distance learning.

Adopted,


ALAN PETER “COMPANERO” S. CAYETANO
Senator 4