

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**)
First Regular Session)



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SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 156

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by **SENATOR RAFFY T. TULFO**

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE ABRUPT, RECKLESS, INDISCRIMINATE AND UNCEREMONIOUS PERMANENT CLOSURE OF THE COLEGIO DE SAN LORENZO IN QUEZON CITY

WHEREAS, on August 15, 2022, the Colegio de San Lorenzo Catholic school in Barangay Toro, Quezon City announced its permanent closure after 34 years of existence and operation, citing among others, alleged, "financial instability and lack of financial viability brought about by the ongoing pandemic and exacerbated by consistent low enrollment turnout over the past years."¹

WHEREAS, the aforesaid permanent closure, without online option even to graduating students, was announced by the school's officials on the very same day, August 15, 2022 when the first day of the Academic year was supposed to commence, without any prior notice whatsoever, in any form, to enrolled students and parents.

WHEREAS, prior to the unannounced closure, Colegio de San Lorenzo has already accepted enrollment, tuition and other school fees from students who were supposed to start face-to-face classes.

WHEREAS, without regard to the time-honored principle of due process, Colegio de San Lorenzo proceeded with the closure, without consultation with the other members of the school community, thereby leaving students and parents in utter quandary and shock.

WHEREAS, with the interference and assistance of the local government of Quezon City, Colegio de San Lorenzo committed to refund students who have paid their school fees. However, as if to make matters worse, Colegio de San Lorenzo

¹ Ombay, Giselle and Panti, Llanesca T., "Colegio de San Lorenzo officials to face legal issues for 'unusual' closure-QC Legal Department, GMA News Online, 17 August 2022, available at <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/metro/841839/collegio-de-san-lorenzo-officials-to-face-legal-issues-for-unusual-closure-qc-legal-dep-t/story/>, accessed on 23 August 2022.

to require students and parents to sign a Waiver before they can claim and receive their refund. Moreover, the school's undertaking to coordinate with other schools which can accept displaced students and assimilate employees who lost their jobs manifestly came as a mere afterthought.

WHEREAS, the sudden permanent closure of Colegio de San Lorenzo, despite the aforesaid contingency measures adopted thereafter, has caused extreme prejudice, physical, psychological, and mental anguish to both the students and parents.

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need for an inquiry and to investigate on these abrupt actuations of Colegio de San Lorenzo in order to adopt necessary legislative measures that will provide sufficient legal guidelines to govern similar instances in the future, and to impose reasonable and appropriate penalties and sanctions to those who may be held accountable for violations of applicable laws.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the abrupt, reckless, indiscriminate and unceremonious permanent closure of Colegio de San Lorenzo in Quezon City, as aforementioned.

Adopted,



RAFFY T. TULFO