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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 150

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE TO
INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE POOR PERFORMANCE OF
ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN LANGUAGE SUBJECTS,
PARTICULARLY IN FILIPINO, AS SHOWN IN THE RESULTS FROM THE RECENT
NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT TESTS

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 17 states 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, the Philippine Daily Inquirer in its 23 August 2010 issue reports that the recent results of the elementary and secondary National Achievement Test (NAT) show that public school students received barely passing marks in achievement tests in Filipino over the last five years, with high school students doing more poorly than grade schoolers;

WHEREAS, the report said that the Department of Education's (DepEd) National Educational Testing and Research Center (NETRC) said that despite test scores gradually improving annually, grades dropped from the mean score of 75.50 percent for elementary students to 58.18 percent for high school students in the last school year;

WHEREAS, the NETRC reported that an increase from last year's scores elementary students scored from 60.68 percent in school year 2005-2006 to the latest at 75.50 percent; the students' in scores in English ranged from 54.05 percent in 2005-2006 to last school year's 68.51 percent;

WHEREAS, on the other hand, high school students' scores ranged from 46.66 percent from school year 2005-06 to 58.18 percent in 2009-10; their Scores in English dropped from 51.2 percent five years ago to 46.86 percent in the last school year;

WHEREAS, the NETRC said that the DepEd is still behind its targets despite an improvement in scores from last year;

WHEREAS, Bureau of Elementary Education officials attributed the poor performance of students to lingering problems in the country's public school system, among them the shortage in books and unmanageable class sizes;

WHEREAS, the exit evaluation for graduating high school seniors do not include a test on Filipino;

WHEREAS, it is inconceivable for the national education system to allow Filipino students to fare poorly on the Filipino language subject because teaching our students the national language do not have the same difficulties and teaching barriers unlike teaching a secondary language such as English;

WHEREAS, while the government's education policy may revolve around the economic competitiveness of our labor force, it should be an equally important policy for the Filipino youth to appreciate the importance of learning about and from our culture and what binds us as a nation;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the Senate committee on education, arts and culture to investigate, in aid of legislation, on the poor performance of elementary and high school students in language subjects, particularly in Filipino, as shown in the results from the recent National Achievement Tests.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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