

SENATE

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P.S. Res. No. 116

Introduced by Senator Luisa "Loi" P. Ejercito Estrada

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE, AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF PUBLIC OFFICERS AND INVESTIGATIONS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON VARIOUS TEXTBOOKS USED IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS WHICH CONTAIN NUMEROUS ERRORS WITH THE END IN VIEW OF REVIEWING AND FINDING THE QUALITY OF TEXTBOOKS USED IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS AND PROPOSING REMEDIAL LEGISLATION FOR THE PURPOSE

WHEREAS, Section 1, Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution 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, for this reason, Government gives the highest budgetary priority to education and allocates almost One Billion Pesos annually for the purchase of textbooks for public elementary and secondary schools;

WHEREAS, Congress passed R.A. No. 8047 which provides among others the privatization of the book industry and the participation of private publishers in the public school textbook program;

WHEREAS, Section 11 of R.A. No. 8097 mandates that "*Guided by the minimum learning competencies for the elementary level, the desired learning competencies for the secondary level and other specifications prepared by the DECS (now DepEd), publishers shall develop and submit to the DECS (DepEd) those syllabi and/or prototypes and manuscripts or books intended for use in the public schools for testing, evaluation, selection, and approval. Upon approval of the manuscripts or books, publishers shall produce and supply the textbooks as ordered by the DECS (DepEd).*";

WHEREAS, based on a study made by Antonio Calipio-Go, academic supervisor of the Marian School in Sauyo, Novaliches in Quezon City, a self-styled crusader for better textbooks as many as 40 percents of textbooks, both in private and public schools are filled with erroneous information;

WHEREAS, based on newspaper accounts, Mr. Calipio-Go identified the following error-riddled textbooks, namely:

1. Asya: Noon, Ngayon at sa Hinaharap", authored by Dr. Teofista Vivar, Evelina Vilorio, Ruth Fuentes and Remedios Quiray, and published by SP Publications;

2. "Kasaysayan ng Daigdig", authored by Dr. Teofista Vivar, Nieva Discipulo, Priscila Rillo and Zenaida de Leon, and published by SD Publications.
3. "Science and Technology in the Modern World I", authored by Marlene Gutierrez, and published by Diwa Scholastic Press.
4. "Science and Technology in the Modern World II", authored by Maria Olivares, Eloisa Bermio and Juanita Cruz, and published by Diwa Scholastic Press.

WHEREAS, acknowledging textbook errors, DepEd Secretary Florencio Abad gave the order to review all existing textbooks in public high schools by external subject area experts in the interest of quality education and for the welfare of the students;

WHEREAS, reports revealed that since the privatization of the public school textbook in 1997 and since the first bidding in 1998, there are only two suppliers who have been consistently awarded the contract to publish and supply textbooks and cornering more than 70% of the total project contract cost;

WHEREAS, there are allegations that there are machinations and malpractice in the process of evaluation and selection of textbook which make the contracts 10%-15% higher;

WHEREAS, based on reports and the present situation, there are questions that need to be answered and issues that must be addressed such as that if the cited books contain factual errors, why did it pass the content evaluation and who submitted the book for bidding?;


WHEREAS, there is an imperative need to review the implementation of law, particularly Sections 10 and 11 of R.A. No. 8047, otherwise known as "The Book Publishing Industry Development Act on public schools and textbook publishing;

WHEREAS, there is also a need to investigate on malpractice and connivance of some suppliers and publishers with some government officials in order to make sure the scarce resources of the government should be used wisely, reasonably and prudently;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to undertake remedial measures to arrest the decline of the quality of education in the country which is due to a greater degree to the approval and use of substandard textbooks in public and private elementary and secondary schools: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, to direct the Committees on Education, Arts, and Culture, and Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations, to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on various textbooks used in public schools which contain numerous errors with the end of reviewing and finding the quality of textbooks used in public and private schools and proposing remedial legislation for the purpose.

Adopted,


LUISA "LOI" P. EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator