

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Resolution No. 241



Introduced by **Rep. LAWRENCE LEMUEL H. FORTUN**

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE P254 MILLION WORTH OF ERROR-RIDDEN TEXTBOOKS AND/OR LEARNING MATERIALS AND THE P113 MILLION WORTH OF UNUTILIZED INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AS REPORTED BY THE COMMISSION ON AUDIT IN ITS 2018 CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT

WHEREAS, Article XIV Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution declares that the State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels;

WHEREAS, the Department of Education is vested under Republic Act No. 9155, otherwise known as the Governance of Basic Education Act of 2001, with authority, accountability, and responsibility of ensuring access to, promoting equity in, and improving the quality of basic education;

WHEREAS, the Commission on Audit, in its Consolidated Annual Audit Report for Calendar Year 2018, reported that the Department Education has an alarming number of undistributed instructional materials amounting to P113,708,595.00 that were procured as buffer stock from Calendar Years 2014 up to 2017;

WHEREAS, the amount of P113,708,595.00 translates to 3,410,137 copies of these instructional materials intended for public schools nationwide that have remained unutilized and idly stored in five (5) DepEd warehouses;

WHEREAS, the failure to utilize the instructional materials is contrary to DepEd Order No. 74 s. 2011, COA Circular No. 2012-003 dated October 29, 2012 and Section 33 of Presidential Decree No. 1445 on Irregular, Unnecessary, Excessive, Extravagant and Unconscionable (IUEEU) expenditures;

WHEREAS, as contained in the report, there were control weaknesses observed in the safekeeping and inventory system of the instructional materials that can result in further damage thereto or loss thereof;

WHEREAS, the Commission on Audit, in the same report, revealed that various errors were discovered in P254 Million worth of different textbooks and learning materials for Grade 3 pupils alone;

WHEREAS, these errors which may result in the miseducation of pupils in public schools have happened despite the supposed three-step review process implemented by the DepEd before textbooks and learning materials are finalized and printed;

WHEREAS, the said findings of the Commission on Audit demonstrate negligence on the part of certain officials of the DepEd resulting in excessive wastage of government resources and ultimately detrimental to the learning experience of pupils;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to look into the COA findings in order to introduce effective reform measures to address DepEd's failures and shortcomings in the writing, review and printing of textbooks and learning materials and in the safekeeping and distribution thereof;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the Committee on Basic Education and Culture to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the P254 Million worth of error-ridden textbooks and/or learning materials and the P113 Million worth of unutilized instructional materials of the Department of Education as reported by the Commission on Audit in its 2018 Consolidated Annual Audit Report.


LAWRENCE LEMUEL H. FORTUN
1st District Agusan del Norte