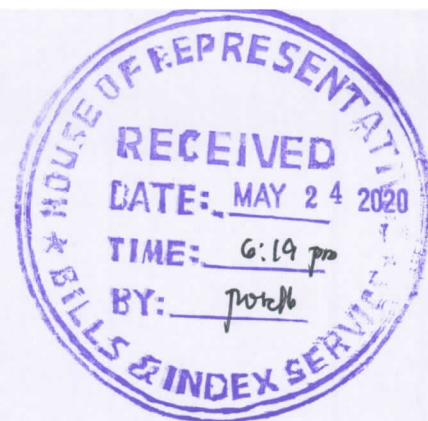


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Resolution No. 901



Introduced by the Honorable Precious Hipolito Castelo

A RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TO INSTITUTE MEASURES THAT WILL MAKE DIGITAL EDUCATION AVAILABLE AND ACCESSIBLE TO ALL STUDENTS AMID THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) PANDEMIC IN THE PHILIPPINES

WHEREAS, early December of 2019, a mysterious and novel strain of coronavirus, was discovered in the city of Wuhan in Central China, as an emerging cluster of people with pneumonia of unknown cause linked primarily to workers at the Huanan Seafood Market in said city were confirmed infected;

WHEREAS, the disease caused by this virus, now known as Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), has infected over Five Million people all over the world;

WHEREAS, in response to the COVID-19 crisis, the Philippine government has stepped in and implemented drastic social distancing measures to slow the spread of the virus;

WHEREAS, since March 15, 2020, parts of the country have been under a "community quarantine" which was later escalated to "enhanced community quarantine" due to the surge of new cases;

WHEREAS, the education sector was largely affected due to the disruption of classes brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, the Department of Education (DepEd) through Department Order No. 007, Series of 2020, has officially set the opening of School Year 2020-2021 on August 24, 2020;

WHEREAS, while DO No. 007 provided that "school opening will not necessarily mean face-to-face learning in the classroom", there still a window of flexibility that may allow the schools to physically open depending on the "risk of severity grading or classification of a locality pursuant to the guidelines of the Department of Health (DOH), Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF), or the Office of the President (OP);

WHEREAS, this might prove to be disastrous especially for children, as children are naturally playful and thus might not necessarily be able to employ social distancing measures in the event that the schools physically open;

WHEREAS, in France, 70 new COVID-19 cases in schools were recorded a week after it let more than 1 million kids go back to school¹;

WHEREAS, it is important to err on the side of caution with this COVID-19 crisis by shifting to digital education instead of face-to-face learning, until a COVID-19 vaccine is discovered and made available to all Filipinos;

WHEREAS, measures and policies that will make digital education available and accessible to all students and teachers shall be instituted;

WHEREAS, in formulating these policies, the welfare of students and teachers and the survival and sustainability of schools shall be taken into consideration;

WHEREAS, other modes of digital education shall be studied and explored, such as airing classes in television for free;

WHEREAS, this digital shift in education shall, as much as possible, be inclusive and all-encompassing;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives to urge the DepEd, CHED and TESDA to institute measures that will make digital education available and accessible to all students amid COVID-19 pandemic.

ADOPTED,


PRECIOUS HIPOLITO CASTELO

¹ <https://www.businessinsider.com/70-new-coronavirus-cases-reported-after-french-schools-begin-reopening-2020-5>