

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2137



Introduced by
REP. CHRISTOPHER V.P. DE VENECIA,
REP. JOSE FRANCISCO “KIKO” B. BENITEZ

**A RESOLUTION
URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THROUGH THE SPECIAL
COMMITTEE ON CREATIVE INDUSTRY AND PERFORMING ARTS AND
OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,
ON THE STATE OF THE PHILIPPINE PUBLISHING INDUSTRY AND OTHER
RELATED INDUSTRIES**

WHEREAS, publishing contributes 4.7 billion pesos in revenue in 2019, which is a significant 0.03% of the country’s total Gross Domestic Product;

WHEREAS, the publishing industry encompasses a wide array of economic activities such as content development, book production, editing, printing, and distribution;

WHEREAS, the onslaught of Covid-19 has undercut the growth of the publishing industry and led to a loss of 3.6 billion pesos, which is more than half of the 6 billion peso-average revenue pre-Covid, due to factors such as the closure of schools, decrease in local publications, and limited to absence of operations of brick and mortar bookstores;

WHEREAS, the publishing industry has had to face transformations and changes in its business model even before the pandemic, mainly due to the digitalization and the proliferation of the internet;

WHEREAS, publishing companies have laid off its employees over the past years, while continuously hiring talent in the technological and data analytics field, signifying a gap in the skills of publishing industry workers and hence an opportunity for upskilling and retooling of the labor force;

WHEREAS, there are copyright issues that publishers and authors have had to face in the creation of learning resource materials, among other published works;

WHEREAS, the country continues to lag in book trade data, leaving a wide gap between our imports and exports of books and other published materials, totalling to 3.6 billion pesos for the books and 9.4 billion pesos for the raw materials imported in 2018 as opposed to exportation

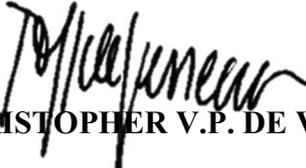
of books and paper materials in the amounts of 236.33 million pesos and 443 million pesos, respectively;

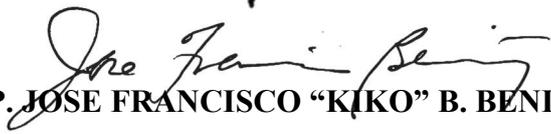
WHEREAS, there is an opportunity to develop the publishing industry in light of the success of the Netflix series Trese, which was a published material in its earliest tangible inception as comics;

WHEREAS, the Covid-19 pandemic has brought about challenges and opportunities for the publishing industry that the Philippine government must capitalize on to help the sector recover from the negative effects of the pandemic and to provide it a roadmap to development;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the House of Representatives, that the Special Committee on Creative Industry and Performing Arts, as well as other appropriate committees of the House of Representative, be urged to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, to discuss the state of the Philippine publishing industry and other related industries, with the end view of addressing the pressing issues that the sector has been facing not only since the pandemic started but also those that have plagued the industry, as well as to aid the sector to pivot to digital platforms and more sustainable business models.

Adopted,


REP. CHRISTOPHER V.P. DE VENECIA


REP. JOSE FRANCISCO "KIKO" B. BENITEZ