



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION No. 26

Introduced by HON. ROMMEL RICO T. ANGARA

JOINT RESOLUTION
CREATING A CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION TO
REVIEW AND ASSESS PHILIPPINE EDUCATION, PROVIDING FUNDS
THEREFORE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

1 WHEREAS, on August 14, 1990, then President Corazon C. Aquino approved
2 the creation of the Congressional Committee on Education (EDCOM), as proposed in
3 Joint Resolution No. 2 passed by both Houses of Congress;

4 WHEREAS, the EDCOM was mandated to submit a report that would lay down
5 the agenda for educational reform in the country;

6 WHEREAS, EDCOM submitted to Congress, President Corazon C. Aquino and
7 the nation, the report entitled *Making Education Work, An Agenda for Reform* as the
8 result of its work;

9 WHEREAS, laws were passed to tri-focalize the educational system into the
10 Commission on Higher Education (CHED), the Technical Education and Skills
11 Development Authority (TESDA), and the Department of Education (DepEd) to bring
12 about clear program focus, realistic plans and targets and rational allocation of
13 resources;

14 WHEREAS, other EDCOM recommendations were either not acted upon or not
15 implemented as EDCOM intended;

16 WHEREAS, among the major recommendations that were not acted upon was
17 the creation or institutionalization of a permanent National Coordinating Council for
18 Education (NCCE) that would coordinate and harmonize the policies and programs of
19 the three education agencies and dovetail them to national development plans;

1 WHEREAS, 25 years after the creation of major bodies in education and
2 manpower development sub-sectors, the following conditions continue to exist:

- 3 - the net enrollment ratio for Junior High School and Senior High School in
4 2018 were 81.4% and 51.2%, respectively;
- 5 - the completion rate of secondary students (Junior High School) students
6 was only 84.3% in 2017;
- 7 - the basic education system still suffers from chronic shortages of teachers
8 and classrooms, large class sizes and low levels of learning achievement;
9 and
- 10 - the passing rate in licensure exams was only 37.9% in 2018.

11 WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 10533 was signed into law on May 15, 2013
12 mandating the nationwide adoption of the K+12 program, and there is a need to
13 review government plans and policies to address the growing pains of the transition
14 period;

15 WHEREAS, the system of basic education in the country still lags behind
16 international standards, evidenced in particular by the results of the 2018 round of the
17 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), where out of 79 countries
18 assessed, the Philippines ranked last for Reading Literacy, and second to the last for
19 Mathematics and Science Literacy, ahead only of the Dominican Republic;

20 WHEREAS, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority has yet
21 to fully implement the provisions of the law, which created it, on devolution of
22 technical and vocational education and training (TVET) to local governments and
23 industry and the transformation of TESDA from providing TVET to monitoring,
24 evaluation, regulation, planning and financing;

25 WHEREAS, the number of State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) and Local
26 Universities and Colleges (LUCs) has increased significantly since 1992, leading to
27 duplication of degree offerings with consequent decrease in the provision of faculty
28 and physical facilities requirement

29 WHEREAS, the United Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary
30 Education (2015), Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act (2017),
31 (UniFAST) and Tulong-Trabaho Act (2019) were enacted to ensure equitable access
32 to post-secondary and tertiary education, hence, reforms should now focus on

1 ensuring the quality and relevance of instruction and elevating the capacity of our
2 colleges and universities to conduct meaningful research;

3 WHEREAS, there are new challenges to education resulting from the Fourth
4 Industrial Revolution (4IR), bringing with it exciting possibilities, new solutions to
5 global challenges, and employment opportunities for jobs that have yet to be invented,
6 while at the same time posing the threat of technological unemployment that drives
7 downward pressure on income security and social agency while society adapts to the
8 new normal. Combined with climate change and rapid global population growth this
9 century, it creates a milieu that is the most challenging that our species has ever faced
10 and calls for new ways of teaching and learning, new ways where knowledge and skills
11 are assessed and certified, new education governance and even new designs and ways
12 of constructing schools;

13 WHEREAS, the fast pace of change across the globe is demanding shifts in our
14 educational paradigms, away from content-centric learning to skills- and outcome-
15 based learning, where those who just started schooling are encouraged to become
16 more flexible, critical, and creative, while those already in the workforce are provided
17 opportunities for reskilling and retraining—with the end-goal of empowering all
18 students across all ages to become lifelong learners;

19 WHEREAS, international agreements such as the Bologna Process, the
20 Washington Accord, the Dublin Accord, the Sydney Accord, the APEC Register and the
21 various international accreditation initiatives have created new demands on our
22 graduates and are exacting new standards on educational institutions;

23 WHEREAS, there are new research findings on how people learn that need to
24 be processed in the context of the Philippine setting;

25 WHEREAS, the Philippines has formally agreed to the goals and purposes of
26 various national and international studies and agreements such as the Sustainable
27 Development Goals (SDGs) and Education for all (EFA) of the United Nations, the Basic
28 Education Sector Reform Agenda (BESRA), and various ASEAN agreements;

29 WHEREAS, the Philippines' commitment to the ASEAN Economic Community in
30 2015 includes free movement of skilled labor in the engineering, nursing, architecture,
31 surveying, dentistry, medicine, accounting, and tourism professions, thus making it
32 imperative that our graduates be competitive in these areas;

1 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF
2 REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, That a Congressional Oversight
3 Committee on Education be created jointly by the Senate and the House of
4 Representatives to be composed of five (5) members of the House of Representatives
5 and five (5) members of the Senate to be designated respectively by the Speaker of
6 the House and the President of the Senate, who shall endeavor to have the three (3)
7 major geographical regions, namely Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, proportionately
8 represented. The Committee shall undertake a national review, assessment and
9 evaluation of the performance of the bodies created to take care of basic education,
10 higher education and manpower development of the country as well as of other bodies
11 and agencies that have initiated actions on cross-cutting recommendations that are
12 not within the distinct purviews of DepEd, TESDA and CHED like the Civil Service
13 Commission (CSC), the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), the
14 Department of Finance (DOF), the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), the
15 Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Information and
16 Communication Technology (DICT), and the Department of Agriculture's Agricultural
17 Training Institute (DA-ATI), among others. The review, evaluation and assessment
18 shall be made in order to determine: (a) observance of the mandates of the respective
19 laws that created the three education and manpower development bodies; (b) the
20 reasons for the gaps in the implementation of EDCOM recommendations and its
21 impact on the performance of the education and training sector for the past 15 years;
22 (c) measures to enable and empower the education and manpower institutions to
23 critically examine and improve performance in the light of globalization and
24 competitiveness, poverty alleviation, sustainable development and overall human
25 development goals of the country; (d) the best teaching, learning and administrative
26 practices of various national and foreign educational institutions that can be adopted
27 across the curriculum and across the system; and (e) additional legislation, if needed,
28 to further the goals of EDCOM;

29 RESOLVED, further, That to carry out its objectives, the Committee shall have
30 the following functions and powers:

1 (1) The Committee shall review, assess and evaluate the formal, non-formal,
2 informal and alternative learning systems, including continuing systems of
3 education at all levels.

4 (2) It shall produce a report of its findings and shall formulate short - and long-
5 term policy and program recommendations – in the context of the
6 abovementioned goals – to include each of the following areas:

- 7 i) Sectoral plans and targets;
- 8 ii) Governance and management;
- 9 iii) Educational/manpower development curriculum and programs;
- 10 iv) Financing;
- 11 v) Convergences among all departments and sectors concerned with
12 human resource management and development for national
13 development.

14 For the foregoing purposes, the Committee shall:

- 15 a) Prescribe and adopt the guidelines that will govern the national review
16 and assessment;
- 17 b) Approve the work plan for the conduct of the national review, evaluation
18 and assessment;
- 19 c) Approve the budget for the programs of the Committee and all
20 disbursements therefrom, including compensation of all personnel;
- 21 d) Hold hearings, receive testimonies, reports and expert advice on the
22 status of Philippine education and on available remedies to identify
23 problems;
- 24 e) Pass upon the recommendations of the Technical Secretariat which it
25 shall organize, to be headed by an executive director, to provide the
26 necessary technical, management and staff services;
- 27 f) Report to Congress its accomplishments on a periodic basis, its findings
28 and recommendations on actions to be taken by Congress and the
29 departments concerned with education and manpower development;
- 30 g) Secure from any department, bureau, office or instrumentality of the
31 Government such assistance as may be needed, including technical

1 information, preparation and production of reports and the submission
2 of recommendations or plans as it may require;

3 h) Hire and appoint such employees and personnel whether temporary,
4 contractual, or on consultancy, subject to applicable rules;

5 i) Summon by subpoena any public official or private citizen to testify
6 before it, or require by subpoena *duces tecum* to produce before it such
7 records, reports or other documents as may be necessary in the
8 performance of its functions; and

9 j) Generally, to exercise all the powers necessary to attain the purposes for
10 which it is created.

11 RESOLVED, further, That the Chairpersons of the Senate Committees on Basic
12 Education, Arts and Culture and on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education and
13 the Chairpersons of the House of Representatives Committees on Basic Education and
14 Culture and on Higher and Technical Education shall serve as co-Chairmen of the
15 Committee. The members of the Committee may establish standing committees from
16 among its members and use resource persons from the public and private sectors as
17 may be needed. The members of the Committee shall receive no compensation, but
18 travelling and other necessary expenses shall be allowed.

19 RESOLVED, finally, That the Committee shall accomplish its mandate within
20 three (3) years from its organization and that in order to carry out the objectives of
21 this Resolution, the sum of Ten Million Pesos (P10,000,000.00) shall be charged
22 annually against the budget of the Philippine Senate and another Ten Million Pesos
23 (P10,000,000.00) shall be charged annually against the budget of the House of
24 Representatives, both for a period of three (3) years, to commence on 2020, for an
25 annual budget of Twenty Million Pesos (P20,000,000.00). Such amount shall be
26 subject to authorized increases that may be made by Congress.

Adopted,


ROMMEL RICO T. ANGARA
Representative, Lone District of Aurora