Republic of the Philippines HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. ____528



Introduced by KABATAAN PARTY-LIST Representative Sarah Jane I. Elago,
ACT TEACHERS PARTY-LIST Representative France L. Castro,
BAYAN MUNA PARTY-LIST Representatives Carlos Isagani T. Zarate,
Ferdinand Gaite and Eufemia C. Cullamat,
and GABRIELA WOMEN'S PARTY Representative Arlene D. Brosas

RESOLUTION

PROBING AND REVOKING, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, CHED-CORDILLERA
ADMINISTRATIVE REGION MEMORANDUM ORDER NO. 79 AND OTHER
RELATED AND/ OR SIMILAR MEMORANDUM ALLOWING MILITARY AND POLICE
PRESENCE INSIDE SCHOOL CAMPUSES TO CONDUCT FORA FULL OF
MISINFORMATION AND RED-TAGGING

WHEREAS, Article XIV Section 5(2) of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states that "Academic freedom shall be enjoyed in all institutions of higher learning;"

WHEREAS, the Philippines is a signatory of the United Nation International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights wherein Article 13 reads "The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to education. They agree that education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and the sense of its dignity and shall strengthen the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. They further agree that education shall enable all persons to participate effectively in a free society, promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations and all racial, ethnic or religious groups, and further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace;"

WHEREAS, on October 18, 2019 CHED-Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) issued Regional Memorandum Order (RMO) No. 79 that endorses Sulat-Kamay, an "information drive" led by the Cordillera police that allows them to hold for inside universities¹;

¹ Buan, Lian (2019). Baguio students challenge CHED-backed army 'info campaign' in schools. Rappler.com. Retrieved from: https://www.rappler.com/nation/244523-baguio-students-challenge-ched-backed-sulat-kamay-army-red-tagging

WHEREAS, on November 9, 2019 student-leaders of Baguio City and Benguet filed a petition before the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) regional office to revoke RMO No. 79 that approved a police and army information campaign inside universities;

WHEREAS, University of the Philippines Baguio University Student Council chairperson Nico Ponce said in a statement, "We are alarmed by CHED-CAR RMO 79 as it essentially provides a free pass for the police entry in Universities, creating more access for them in spreading unverified claims and vilification against legitimate organizations in schools;"

WHEREAS, this is yet another one of the administration's schemes to justify military presence in schools and universities;

WHEREAS, student-leaders that speak up on behalf of the student body against clear bastardization of outstanding memorandums and accords that prohibit PNP and AFP from entering Universities are merely upholding institutions to be aligned with the nation's democratic principle;

WHEREAS, amid the attacks that progressive organizations and students have been receiving due recognition from the House is needed through which it furthers and promotes the rule of checks and balances.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives probe and revoke, in aid of legislation, CHED-Cordillera Administrative Region Memorandum Order No. 79 and other related and/ or similar memorandum allowing military and police presence inside school campuses to conduct fora full of misinformation and red-tagging.

Adopted,

Rep. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO Kabataan Party-list

Rep. FRANCE L. CASTRO
ACT Teachers Party-list

Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS Gabriela Women's Party

Rep. CARLOS SACANT T. ZARATE Bayan Muna Darty-list

Rep. FERDINAND GAITE Bayan Muna Party-list

Rep. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT Bayan Muna Party-list