

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 795



Introduced by

**BAYAN MUNA Representatives EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT,
CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE and FERDINAND R. GAITE,
GABRIELA Women's Party Representative ARLENE D. BROSAS,
ACT TEACHERS Party-List Representative FRANCE L. CASTRO,
and KABATAAN Party-List Representative SARAH JANE I. ELAGO**

RESOLUTION

**URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THROUGH THE COMMITTEE
ON HUMAN RIGHTS, TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF
LEGISLATION, ON THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST LUMAD SCHOOLS IN
MINDANAO**

WHEREAS, continued attacks and threats of closure against Lumad schools in Mindanao have intensified particularly in Davao de Oro province and in the Caraga Region. The schools, which cater to underserved lumad communities in far-flung communities, are vilified and red-tagged and its teachers and members labelled as "communist terrorists";

WHEREAS, the Community Technical College of Southeastern Mindanao, Inc. (CTCSM) in Maco, Davao de Oro (formerly known as Compostela Valley) is a private non-stock, non-profit educational institution that provides education to Lumad, Moro, and peasant youth from various regions in Mindanao. Its programs combine comprehensive academic subjects with agricultural development, health program, sports and cultural components and grassroots-transformative education;

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, parents of students attending CTCSM from different municipalities were summoned by barangay officials and military officials to "rescue" and pull out their children from the school. According to CTCSM, it is part of the Regional Peace and Order Region XI's (RPOC-XI) moves to red-tag and shutdown CTCSM and other Lumad schools following the council's statement against Lumad school Salugpongan Learning Center and the United Church of the Philippines (UCCP) Haran;

WHEREAS, it can be recalled that on January 25 the UCCP Haran compound was attacked by members of paramilitary group Alamara who also claimed to "rescue" the Lumad evacuees seeking sanctuary in the said compound. The paramilitary forces forcibly entered the evacuation center by tearing down the walls, bringing with them bladed weapons upon entering the evacuation center and threatened the evacuees. This came after the RPOC-XI issued a resolution demanding the closure of the church compound;

WHEREAS, in the Caraga Region or Region XIII, on March 2, elements of the 75th IBPA, together with local government officials and DepEd Region XIII, conducted an ocular inspection in a Lumad community in Diatagon, Lianga, Surigao del Sur eyed for the construction

1 of a school building. The DepEd school is meant to replace the community-built Lumad school
2 Tribal Filipino Program of Surigao del Sur (TRIFPSS) despite protests from the residents. The
3 inspection and the plans to build a school did not undergo any prior consultation with the
4 indigenous community in the area;

5
6 **WHEREAS**, TRIFPSS is a community school providing education to children from the
7 Manobo tribe which has been vilified and red-tagged also by the military. TRIFPSS has been
8 recognized multiple times by the Department of Education for its outstanding literacy program.
9 In 2001, it was awarded as Most Outstanding Literacy Program in the National Literacy Awards;

10
11 **WHEREAS**, teachers, parents and advocates of Lumad schools are villified as terrorists by state
12 forces and slapped with false charges. On March 10, flyers containing black propaganda were
13 distributed in Cagayan de Oro. In the flyer were a list of activists and advocates who were also
14 tagged as communist-terrorists. Among those named were Chad Booc, volunteer teacher of
15 ALCADDEV, and Reywynx Morgado, literacy coordinator of the Rural Missionaries of the
16 Philippines (RMP) literacy program which provides education to Lumad children. Both schools
17 have been subjected to red-tagging by the military;

18
19 **WHEREAS**, the attacks against Lumad schools, people's organizations and human rights
20 defenders are the direct result of President Duterte's Executive Order 70 which created the
21 National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC). The national
22 task force has since unveiled itself as a tool to silence any form of dissent, targetting
23 marginalized sectors, especially indigenous people, resisting against development aggression.
24 Despite the lifting of Martial Law in Mindanao, the attacks against marginalized sectors,
25 especially the Lumad, persist and continue to intensify;

26
27 **WHEREAS**, it is imperative for members of Congress, as representatives of our people, to
28 defend the rights of our people and check on excesses and violations committed against them.
29 Laws and rules should serve the interest of our people, and should not be weaponized to
30 suppress their rights and oppress them;

31
32 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the House of Representatives, through the
33 Committee on Human Rights, conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the on the recent
34 attacks against Lumad schools in Mindanao.

1 *Approved,*
2
3

4 
5 **REP. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT**
6 *Bayan Muna Partylist*
7

8
9
10 
11 **REP. CARLOS SAGANI T. ZARATE**
12 *Bayan Muna Partylist*
13

14 
15 **REP. FERDINAND R. GAITE**
16 *Bayan Muna Partylist*
17

18 **REP. ARLENE D. BROSAS**
19 *GABRIELA Women's Party*
20

21 
22 **REP. FRANCES L. CASTRO**
23 *ACT Teachers Partylist*
24

25 
26 **REP. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO**
27 *Kabataan Partylist*
28