

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

889

House Resolution No. _____



Introduced by Representative Deputy Speaker Michael L. Romero and
Enrico A. Pineda

A RESOLUTION

URGING THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION TO IMPLEMENT OPEN DISTANCE LEARNING PROTOCOLS IN ALL INSTITUTIONS FOR BASIC EDUCATION IN THE COUNTRY UNTIL A VACCINE AGAINST COVID-19 IS DEVELOPED AND MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC.

WHEREAS, on 11 March 2020 the Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO) has made the assessment that Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a pandemic that has now spread all over the world. While the virus continues to spread, it is important that nations take action to prevent further transmission, reduce the impact of the outbreak and support control measures.

WHEREAS, the protection of young students and educational facilities is of paramount importance. Innovative solutions are necessary to prevent the potential spread of COVID 19 in school settings. Safeguards and protocols must be put in place to limit the possible exposure of young students to the said pandemic.

WHEREAS, as stated in a report¹ by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), an estimated 1.6 billion children and young people or 91 per cent of students worldwide were adversely affected by the temporary closure of schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this number includes most of the young students for basic education in the Philippines.

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the Philippines implement measures to limit the possible exposure of Filipino students to the COVID-19 pandemic. The most effective measure is to implement Open Distance Learning Protocols, in lieu of physical classes, until the vaccination of majority of the populace is achieved.

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 10650² provides for the institutionalization

¹ Jason Miks and John McIlwaine, Keeping the world's children learning through COVID-19, available at <https://www.unicef.org/coronavirus/keeping-worlds-children-learning-through-covid-19> (last accessed on 13 May 2020).

² An Act Expanding Access To Educational Services By Institutionalizing Open Distance Learning In Levels Of Tertiary Education And Appropriating Funds Therefor, Republic Act No. 10650 (2014).

of "Open Distance Learning" for tertiary education in the country.

WHEREAS, Section 3, paragraphs (a), (e) and (f) provides for the definition of "Distance education", "Open Distance Learning" and "Open learning" as follows:

"Sec. 3 Definition of Terms

- (a) Distance education refers to a mode of learning in which students and teachers are physically separated from each other. It is student centered, guided independent study, making use of well-studied teaching and learning pedagogies to deliver well-designed learning materials in various media. It is also sometimes described as flexible learning and distributed learning;*
- (e) Open Distance Learning (ODL) refers to the merger of two (2) concepts, that of open learning and distance education. It is a System which combines methodology of distance education with the concepts of open learning and flexible learning;*
- (f) Open learning refers to a philosophy of learning that is based on flexibility of access for equity in education, an educational system accessible to every individual with minimal restrictions and emphasizing the flexibility of the system to eradicate problems caused by barriers like age, geographical location, time constraints and economic situation."*

WHEREAS, while the above cited law applies only to "public and private higher educational institutions (HEI)³, now more than ever, the adoption of similar measures for all institutions of basic education in the country is indispensable to counter the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic to the education of young students across the country.

WHEREAS, examples of Open Distance Learning Protocols that can be implemented are the following: first, the use of online learning and electronic books; second, pre-recorded classes and online classes; third, self-learning and supervised-learning modules; last, the use traditional media such as television and radio; in lieu of physical classes. A combination of the existing protocols and other innovative solutions can be utilized as a substitute for physical classes.

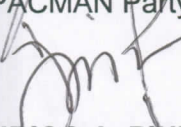
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the House of Representatives, to urge the Secretary of Education to implement Open Distance Learning Protocols in all institutions for basic education in the country until a vaccine against COVID-19 is developed and made available to the general public.

³ Section 4, Republic Act No. 10650.

Adopted,



MICHAEL L. ROMERO
Representative – Deputy Speaker
1-PACMAN Party List



ENRICO A. PINEDA
Representative
1-PACMAN Party List