

## Republic of the Philippines HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS First Regular Session



HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 905

## Introduced by REP. AURELIO "DONG" D. GONZALES, JR.

## **A RESOLUTION**

URGING THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT, COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION, AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, TO ESTABLISH AND APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR SUBSIDY AND LOAN PROGRAMS FOR THE TEACHING AND NON-TEACHING STAFF AND PERSONNEL OF PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AND CONTRACTUAL AND JOB ORDER TEACHING AND NON-TEACHING STAFF AND PERSONNEL OF THE PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN TIMES OF STATE EMERGENCIES, CALAMITIES, AND OTHER SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES

WHEREAS, Section 9, Article II of the 1987 Constitution states that "the State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all." In accordance with that declaration, the State laid out a policy of full protection of the rights of workers by promoting full employment and equality of employment opportunities for all, thereby promoting their welfare as enshrined in Section 18, Article II and Section 3, Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution, in recognition of labor as "a primary social economic force;"

WHEREAS, in December 2019, a pneumonia outbreak was reported in Wuhan, Hubei, China, which was later traced to a new strain of coronavirus then called as novel Coronavirus (2019-NCOV), later renamed as Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), spreading around the world and infecting a large number of people and with fatalities in many cases, resulting in the widespread transmission to be declared as a global pandemic;

WHEREAS, His Excellency, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, was constrained to declare a state of public health emergency in the entire country as an immediate response to the alarming situation after a case of local transmission of COVID-19 has been confirmed, leading to the imposition of a nationwide community quarantine and the exhortation by the authorities for the people to stay at home to stay safe;

**WHEREAS**, the current number of COVID-19-related mortalities worldwide is 344,815 deaths, while there have been 873 deaths in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, considering that there is no specific treatment for or any vaccine developed against COVID-19, and listening to the opinions of the experts in medicine and sciences, His Excellency, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, cognizant that there is a grave and imminent threat to the lives and safety of the Filipinos especially of our children because of COVID-19, has taken the position that there should be no opening of classes;

WHEREAS, it is expected that the non-opening of classes would seriously affect the employment of teaching and non-teaching personnel in the public and private educational institutions, including technical vocational education and skills training institutions, as there is no expectancy of returning to the normal situation before the onset of COVID-19 in the country in the short-term, and may lead to a massive loss of work for many workers in the educational, technical vocational education, and skills training sectors;

WHEREAS, there is a need to establish a protective and relief measure to protect the interest of teaching and non-teaching personnel in the public and private educational institutions, so as to prevent them from being victimized by COVID-19 and other similar contingencies;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it hereby resolved by the House of the Representatives, to urge the National Economic Development Authority, Department of Finance, the Department of Budget and Management, the Department of Education, the Department of Labor and Employment, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Commission on Higher Education, and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, to establish a subsidy and loan programs for the teaching and non-teaching staff of private educational institution, and contractual and job order teaching and non-teaching staff and personnel of public educational institutions, including technical vocational education and skills training institutions, in times of state emergencies, calamities, and other similar circumstances, and appropriate funds therefor.

Adopted,