

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

58

House Resolution No. _____

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

RESOLUTION
URGING THE COMMITTEES ON INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES AND
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE
TO JOINTLY PROBE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE SUSPENSION ORDER
ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DEPED) REGION XI
AGAINST 55 LUMAD SCHOOLS OF SALUGPONGAN TA'TANU IGKANOGON
COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER (SALUGPONGAN)

WHEREAS, On July 10, 2019 the Department of Education Region XI issued a Suspension Order against fifty-five (55) schools of the Salugpongan Ta'Tanu Igkanogon Community Learning Center, Inc. (STTICLCI or Salugpongan for brevity), following a supposed report from Secretary Hermogenes Esperon Jr., National Security Adviser and Vice Chair of the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF ELCAC). Sec. Esperon accused the school of not teaching in accordance with guidelines set forth by the DepEd, and for allegedly "teaching students to rebel against the government";

WHEREAS, the Salugpongan School (STTICLCI) is a non-stock, non-profit community-based school that aims to enhance the life skills and knowledge of the indigenous people;

WHEREAS, the administrators, students, teachers, and staff of the lumad schools, particularly the Salugpongan schools, have been continuously subjected to red-tagging, vilification and harassment for several years according to the Save Our Schools Network. The threat arising from the red-tagging and the actual occupation of military forces of school buildings caused its intermittent closures in the past years;

WHEREAS, there have been documented cases of the military and paramilitary groups forcing communities at gunpoint to destroy school buildings in several villages in Davao del Norte and Compostela Valley. One of the highlight cases is the killing of Dionel Campos and Juvello Sinzo lumad leaders, and Emerito Samarca, Executive Director of ALCADDEV (Alternative Learning Center for Agricultural and Livelihood Development), a lumad school in Lianga, Surigao del Sur. They were slain inside the school compound witnessed by community members and students by a paramilitary group linked with the Armed Forces of the Philippines on September 1, 2015;

WHEREAS, the school-children, staff and teachers had continually asserted their rights to conduct operations as provided by law;

WHEREAS, the DepEd issued the suspension order without proper investigation as it relied only on the report and self-serving affidavits submitted by the NTF ELCAC;

WHEREAS, the suspension order was issued in flagrant violation to the due process rights of Salugpungan, its administrators, teachers, staff and students. The DepEd even failing to inform Salugpungan officers beforehand about the said Order before releasing the suspension order to the media. It is not only unjust and unethical but clearly smacks of discrimination against the Lumads of Salugpungan;

WHEREAS, Article 14 Sec 1 of the Philippine Constitution guarantees all citizens the right to education stating that: "The State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels, and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all";

WHEREAS, the Philippine Constitution of 1987, Article 14 Sec 2.4 states that "The State shall Encourage non-formal, informal, and indigenous learning systems, as well as self-learning, independent, and out-of-school study programs particularly those that respond to community needs";

WHEREAS, Article 14, Sec17 of the Philippine Constitution states that "The State shall recognize, respect, and protect the rights of indigenous cultural communities to preserve and develop their cultures, traditions, and institutions. It shall consider these rights in the formulation of national plans and policies."

WHEREAS, Article 14 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) states that "Indigenous peoples have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions providing education in their own languages, in a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning."


NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the House Committee on Indigenous Cultural Communities And Indigenous Peoples and Basic Education and Culture, to jointly conduct an immediate investigation into the suspension of the 55 Lumad Schools of Salugpungan Ta'Tanu Igkanogon Community Learning Center (Salugpungan) issued by the Department of Education Region XI.

Adopted,


Rep. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT
Bayan Muna Party-list


Rep. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE
Bayan Muna Party-list


Rep. FERDINAND R. GAITE
Bayan Muna Party-list


Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS
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Rep. FRANCE L. CASTRO
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Rep. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO
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