

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Resolution No. 101



Introduced by **Rep. LAWRENCE LEMUEL H. FORTUN**

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE MANDATE, FUNCTIONS, PROGRAMS, INITIATIVES, AND CAPACITY OF THE KOMISYON SA WIKANG FILIPINO TO PRESERVE AND PROMOTE THE PHILIPPINES' LOCAL LANGUAGES

WHEREAS, Article XIV Section 14 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution declares that:

“The State shall foster the preservation, enrichment, and dynamic evolution of a Filipino national culture based on the principle of unity in diversity in a climate of free artistic and intellectual expression;”

WHEREAS, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recognizes that:

“Languages play a vital role in development, in ensuring cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue, but also in attaining quality education for all and strengthening cooperation, in building inclusive knowledge societies and preserving cultural heritage, and in mobilizing political will for applying the benefits of science and technology to sustainable development;”¹

WHEREAS, Congress was mandated under Article XIV Section 9 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution to establish a national language commission composed of representatives of various regions and disciplines which shall undertake, coordinate, and promote researches for the development, propagation, and preservation of Filipino and other languages;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 7104 entitled, “An Act Creating the Commission on the Filipino Language, Prescribing its Powers, Duties and Functions, and for Other Purposes” was passed to breathe life to the aforementioned Constitutional provision;

WHEREAS, the number of individual languages listed for Philippines is 185. Of these, 183 are living and 2 are extinct. Of the living languages, 175 are indigenous and 8 are non-indigenous. Furthermore, 39 are institutional, 67 are developing, 38 are vigorous, 28 are in trouble, and 11 are dying;²

WHEREAS, failure to avert the death of our local languages would mean loss of our

¹ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. (n.d.). Languages and Multilingualism. Retrieved July 23, 2019, from <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/cultural-diversity/languages-and-multilingualism/>

² Eberhard, David M., Gary F. Simons, and Charles D. Fennig (eds.). 2019. *Ethnologue: Languages of the World*. Twenty-second edition. Dallas, Texas: SIL International. Online version: <http://www.ethnologue.com>

identity and culture, including oral histories, traditional songs, poetry, and other verbal or written art forms not translated into another language; and loss of valuable information needed for mankind's continuing search for facts, such as indigenous knowledge;

WHEREAS, with 21% of the country's languages facing the risk of extinction, it has become apparent that the Commission on the Filipino Language or the, Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino (KWF), is unable to effectively perform its mandate to preserve the country's local languages;

WHEREAS, in the light of these alarming developments, it has become imperative for Congress to revisit the law creating the Komisyon sa Wikang Pilipino, its mandate, structure, functions, programs, projects, initiatives and budget in order to come up with timely and viable reform measures that will strengthen the Commission and enable it to effectively serve its purpose under the Constitution.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the Committee on Basic Education and Culture to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the mandate, functions, programs, initiatives, and capacity of the Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino to preserve and promote the Philippines' local languages.

Adopted.



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