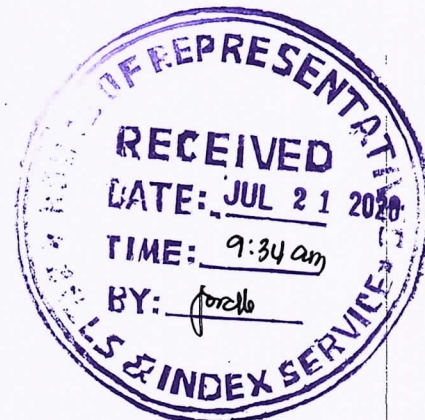


REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Resolution No. 1057



Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE CIRIACO B. GATO, JR.**

**A RESOLUTION**

**EARNESTLY REQUESTING PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE THROUGH THE INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE (IATF) FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE PHILIPPINES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DEPED), TO ALLOW THE CONDUCT OF THE TRADITIONAL 'FACE-TO-FACE' CLASSES IN THE PROVINCE OF BATANES WHICH REMAINS LOW RISK AND COVID-FREE**

**WHEREAS**, in view of the emerging COVID-19 pandemic situation of our country, Basic Education is among the sectors adversely affected by the COVID-19. The schools and community learning centers are all closed for physical conduct of classes.

**WHEREAS**, to address this predicament, the Department of Education (DEPED) has issued DEPED Order No. 012 s. 2020 dated June 19, 2020 providing a Basic Education Learning Continuity Plan (BE-LCP),--a package of education interventions that will respond to basic education challenges brought about by COVID-19.<sup>1</sup>

**WHEREAS**, the DEPED has provided multiple learning delivery modalities and platforms that schools can adopt depending on the risk severity grading or classification of a certain community pursuant to the guidelines from the Department of Health (DOH) and IATF. These learning modalities can be face-to-face, distance learning, blended learning and homeschooling.

**WHEREAS**, that the schools have the option to adopt may be one or a combination of the different learning modalities depending on the COVID-19 restrictions and the particular context of the learners in the school or locality.

**WHEREAS**, DEPED has already expressed its full support to President Duterte's non-negotiable commitment for health and safety of our learners, teachers and staff. That no face-to-face classes shall be held until it is safe thereby highly recommending the distance learning modality either by modular, online distance and TV/Radio-Based instructions.

**WHEREAS**, while distance learning is fitting under the present situation of our country, it cannot be denied that there are still areas which do not have internet connection or have poor internet connectivity and which will make online classes far-fetched. In fact, even prior to the

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.deped.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/DO\\_s2020\\_012.pdf](https://www.deped.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/DO_s2020_012.pdf)



pandemic, Internet connection was already considered the most pressing problem of our country as compared to poverty and corruption.<sup>2</sup>

**WHEREAS**, according to DEPED's Learner Enrollment Survey Form (LESF), around seventy-two million (7.2M) enrollees would prefer modular learning, television and radio-based instruction and other modalities while only two million (2M) opted for online learning.

**WHEREAS**, to date, the Island Province of Batanes has continuously been COVID-free and has been consistently declared/classified as a very low risk area by DOH and IATF.

**WHEREAS**, noteworthy is the fact that in the Province of Batanes, the average student-teacher ratio is approximately 1:11 or 1:12 ; both in elementary and secondary school levels. Hence, conducting classes in the traditional face-to-face format is very practicable without compromising the health and safety of the teachers, students and school personnels.

**WHEREAS**, aside from the manageable student-teacher ratio, the internet connection in the Province is not at all reliable. In fact, this representation has a pending request to Secretary Gregorio Honasan II of the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), for installation of transmission towers in seven (7) Barangays in the province that are not yet reached by mobile and data signals.<sup>3</sup>

**WHEREAS**, at the onset, DEPED has also put forward that traditional face-to-face classes may still be feasible in very low risk areas such as the geographically isolated, disadvantaged and conflict affected areas (GIDCA) with no history of infection and very low and easily monitored external contacts with teachers and students living in the vicinity of the school.

**WHEREAS**, besides the advantages of traditional face-to-face classes such as active participation, immediate feedback/comprehension and socio-development of the students cannot be overemphasized.

**WHEREAS**, this earnest request to allow the Province of Batanes to conduct the traditional face-to-face classes is fully supported by the Honorable Governor Marilou H. Cayco, Provincial Inter-agency Task Force (PIATF), six (6) municipal mayors, teachers, parents and other stakeholders.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved by the House of Representatives of the Philippines to earnestly request President Rodrigo Roa Duterte through the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) to the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases of the Philippines and the Department of Education (DEPED), to allow the conduct of the traditional "face-to-face" classes in the Province of Batanes which remains low risk and COVID-free.

*Adopted,*

  
**CIRIACO B. GATO, JR.**  
Lone District, Batanes

<sup>2</sup> [https://businessmirror.com.ph/2017/04/17/for-filipinos-poor-internet-connection-a-more-bothersome-issue-than-poverty-corruption/#~:text=NewsEconomy,For%20Filipinos%2C%20poor%20internet%20connection%20a,bothersome%20issue%20than%20poverty%2C%20corruption&text=Bad%20Internet%20connection%20is%20a,for%20Development%20Studies%20\(PIDS\).](https://businessmirror.com.ph/2017/04/17/for-filipinos-poor-internet-connection-a-more-bothersome-issue-than-poverty-corruption/#~:text=NewsEconomy,For%20Filipinos%2C%20poor%20internet%20connection%20a,bothersome%20issue%20than%20poverty%2C%20corruption&text=Bad%20Internet%20connection%20is%20a,for%20Development%20Studies%20(PIDS).)

<sup>3</sup> See attached DICT letter.