A RESOLUTION
STRONGLY CONDEMNING THE WRONGFUL PORTRAYALS OF THE IGOROTS IN THE SELF-LEARNING MODULES AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS CREATED AND DISTRIBUTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, AND DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AS WELL AS THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE CREATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF ERRONEOUS INFORMATION AGAINST THE MEMBERS OF INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, following the mandate of the 1987 Constitution, the Indigenous Peoples Right Act (IPRA) was enacted in 1997, which requires the State to take effective measures to eliminate prejudice and discrimination and to promote tolerance, understanding and good relations among Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples and all segments of society;

WHEREAS, one of the key elements of the IPRA is the right of the members of the Indigenous Cultural Communities to cultural integrity, and the Department of Education had responded to the mandate of fulfilling the needs of the indigenous peoples specifically in terms of preserving their cultural heritage - one of which is the indigenisation of elementary and secondary curricula;

WHEREAS, just recently, some self-learning modules and instructional materials that wrongly depicted Igorots circulated online, thereby effectively subjecting the Igorots and to some extent, the members of the indigenous peoples, to discrimination and public ridicule;

WHEREAS, the said incident is only one of those instances where Igorots and members of the indigenous cultural communities are being portrayed incorrectly on account of their attire and physical appearance;

WHEREAS, despite of the claims of the officials of the Department of Education that the learning materials containing the defamatory and wrongfully portrayals of the Igorots have already been withdrawn from circulation and were not distributed to the students, it is still imperative to respond to it and immediately correct the same;
WHEREAS, as an institution responsible for promoting and improving the quality of basic education, it is the responsibility of the Department of Education to generate greater awareness about the culture of the Igorots and the members of the indigenous cultural communities in general, in order to debunk any misconception about, and to eliminate prejudice and discrimination against, them;

WHEREAS, the Department of Education should establish and endeavor to provide strong mechanisms and control to assure the quality of self-learning modules that are being distributed to the students in order to prevent learning module mishaps;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED as it is hereby RESOLVED by the House of Representatives, to strongly condemn the wrongful portrayals of the Igorots and the members of the indigenous cultural communities in the self-learning modules and instructional materials created and distributed by the Department of Education, and to direct the Committee on Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples as well as the Committee on Basic Education and Culture, to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the creation and distribution of erroneous information against the members of indigenous cultural communities

Adopted

[Signature]

LUIZA LEOREN CUARESMA