

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session



HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 2182

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

RESOLUTION

URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE TO CONDUCT AN URGENT INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION INTO THE LAPSES BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE UTILIZATION OF FUNDS FOR THE BASIC EDUCATION LEARNING CONTINUITY PLAN, AND OTHER OBSERVATIONS OF THE 2020 ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT RELEASED BY THE COMMISSION ON AUDIT

WHEREAS, on August 14, 2021, the Commission on Audit released, via its website, its Annual Audit Report (AAR) on the Department of Education budget for the fiscal year 2020. The AAR revealed many negative audit observations on how the DepEd implements its programs and activities using its 2020 budget, both from the General Appropriations Act of 2020, Republic Act 11469 or *Bayanihan to Heal as One Act*, and Republic Act 11494 or *Bayanihan to Recover as One Act*;

WHEREAS, covered by the compliance audit were pooled savings and appropriations amounting to a total of ₱16,105,186,000.00. Of that, ₱10,911,120,000.00 were pooled under Bayanihan 1, ₱10,638,769,000.00, of which were transferred to Regions; while a total of ₱5,194,066,000.00 were appropriated by and pooled under Bayanihan 2, only ₱1,326,066,000.00 were transferred to Regions;

WHEREAS, particular to the Basic Education Learning Continuity Plan, or the DepEd's program covering the provision of basic education amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the COA found numerous lapses in DepEd's utilization of funds under Bayanihan 1 and 2 alone amounting to ₱3,220,873,835.58;

WHEREAS, the following were the lapses unearthed in the compliance audit:

Audit Observations	Office/RO	Amounts in ₱
a.) Lapses in the budget utilization	OSEC/CO, NCR, CAR, I, III, IV-B, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, and XIII	3,220,873,835.58
b.) Non-/incomplete submission of the required documents regarding BE-LCP	NCR, II, III, IV-A, IV-B, V, VI, VIII, IX, and XI	545,650,027.37
c.) Non-/delayed submission of perfected contracts and Purchase Orders and insufficiency of supporting documents	NCR, I, II, III, IV-A, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, XI, XII, and XIII	2,399,839,444.35
d.) Non-compliance with the IRR of RA 9184 and other issuances on government procurement	NCR, CAR, I, II, III, IV-A, IV-B, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, XI, XII, and XIII	623,625,786.06
e.) Inadequate supporting documents and other deficiencies in disbursements and procurements	NCR, CAR, NIS, I, III, IV-A, IV-B, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, XI, XII, and XIII	439,927,549.94
f.) Non-preparation/maintenance of prescribed forms for issuance and recording of inventory items	NCR, I, III, VIII, IX, and XI	
g.) Flawed/Incomplete/Delayed procurement, reproduction and delivery of SLMs	NCR, CAR, I, II, III, IV-A, IV-B, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, XI, XII, and XIII	886,498,731.78
h.) Other deficiencies noted in the audit of BE-LCP	NCR, CAR, II, IV-A, IV-B, VIII, IX and XII	20,583,842.73
Total		8,136,999,217.81

WHEREAS, notable among the lapses in budget utilization are:

1. funds were not immediately released by DepEd CO to the ROs (₱951,896,000.00, with OSec's delays lasting up to 147 days) and by two ROs to Schools Division Offices (₱1,390,073,721.10, as late as 53 days after school opening);
2. only 41.02% or ₱915,626,354.65 was disbursed out of the ₱2,232,216,345.18 released to six ROs;
3. unutilized funds amounting to ₱396,290,172.69 by seven ROs; and
4. other deficiencies in the release and utilization of the BE-LCP fund in six ROs involving ₱1,390,073,721.10;

WHEREAS, the COA noted that these all these "affect[ed] the overall effective implementation of the BE-LCP adopted by the Department to relentlessly carry out its mandate of providing quality basic education in spite of the Pandemic crisis";

WHEREAS, aside from these lapses, the supreme state auditing body also caught lapses and irregularities in transactions amounting to ₱4,009,042,807.72 in Bayanihan funds due to the second to sixth factors. The COA noted that as result, the validity and propriety of these financial transactions and disbursements cannot be fully ascertained;

WHEREAS, outside of Bayanihan funds, the COA discovered other lapses, accounting errors, and anomalies, such as:

1. unliquidated cash advances in the Central Office and ROs amounting to ₱697,519,203.37 aged 30 days to more than one year;
2. only 16% or 7,555 ICT packages out of the 38,827 target by the CO using the GAAs from 2018 to 202, with delays in procurement lasting from 60 to 317 days, and affecting ₱2.37 B of ICT Program funds; and
3. a total of ₱11.07 billion in suspensions, disallowances, and charges involving taxpayers' money which DepEd has yet to settle as of the report's publication;

WHEREAS, it should be noted the consequences of these errors, lapses, delays, irregularities, and flaws in budget utilization and accounting all are borne by public school teachers. For instance, the resounding complaint from teachers from all regions nationwide since the beginning of blended learning last year are the absence and delayed delivery of SLMs (sometimes for as long as a quarter), teachers being forced to reproduce their own SLMs, and content errors. Teachers and education personnel are also being forced to go long without the benefits that they desperately need in order that they can fully fulfil their tasks and not be driven further into poverty;

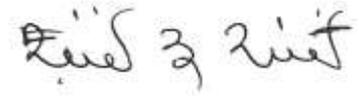
WHEREAS, these observations brought to light in the 2020 AAR are additional proof that public education and its teachers and personnel are being undersupported despite being overworked. They also show that the main agency mandated to see to it that free and quality education continues to be assured to millions of Filipino children despite the pandemic appears to have a minimal sense of urgency at a time of crisis and emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives through the Committee on Public Accounts and Committee on Basic Education and Culture conduct an immediate investigation in aid of legislation into the lapses by the Department of Education in the utilization of funds for the Basic Education Learning Continuity Plan, and other observations of the 2020 Annual Audit Report released by the Commission on Audit.

Adopted,



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