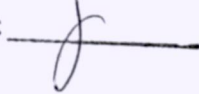




SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

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SENATE
P.S. Resolution No. 297

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by: Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE SAFETY GUIDELINES AND POLICIES ON EDUCATIONAL TOURS AND FIELD TRIPS OF COLLEGES AND HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

WHEREAS, Section 13 of Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states that, the State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. Accordingly, Section 4(1) of Article XIV allows the State to exercise reasonable supervision and regulation of all educational institutions;

WHEREAS, Section 8(d) of Republic Act 7722, otherwise known as "Higher Education Act of 1994", empowers the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to set minimum standards for programs and institutions of higher learning recommended by panels of experts in the field subject to public hearing, and enforce the same. In line with this, CHED has issued Memorandum Order No. 17, which provides the policies and guidelines on educational tours and field trips of college and graduate students;

WHEREAS, Section 5, Article III of Memorandum Order No. 17 recognizes that educational tours and/or field trips provide access to efficient and interactive learning of students relevant to the acquisition of the necessary knowledge, skills, and values for student welfare and development;

WHEREAS, the role of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) is to undertake briefing and debriefing programs as well as to discuss Risk Assessment Procedures with parents concerning educational tours and/or field trips to ensure the safety and security of its students, as its utmost priority. As such, only travel and tour operators and tour guides accredited by the Department of Tourism should be engaged by the HEIs to ensure the quality and professional conduct of tours.¹ Further, in order to ensure compliance with the guidelines and regulations stated, the CHED en banc, may impose sanctions

¹ CHED Memorandum Order 17 [CHED Memo Order. No. 17]: Policies and Guidelines on Educational Tours and Field Trips of College and Graduate Students, art. VII, § 17 (2012).

depending on the nature and seriousness of the violation or non-compliance of HEIs;²

WHEREAS, the policy with respect to field trips and/or educational tours does not make these activities compulsory and allows students who cannot join such activities to participate in a parallel school activity, which provides a similar acquisition of knowledge of the required practical competencies and other learning objectives;³

WHEREAS, prior consultation with students should be conducted when there are additional costs involved. Any information regarding educational tours and/or field trips shall form part of the student handbook.⁴ In addition thereto, there should be an exhaustive discussion during freshmen orientation to fully inform the students of their rights in relation to school-sanctioned activities ;

WHEREAS, in light of the bus accident in Tanay, Rizal that killed 15 students on February 20, 2017, CHED announced that it will issue a moratorium on field trips and educational tours in all HEIs. It will also establish a task force to look into the incident.⁵ Further, CHED Commissioner Prospero de Vera issued a statement reiterating the importance of strictly “regulating the use of public transport for school-sponsored trips;”⁶

WHEREAS, there have been prior student-activity-related safety incidents in the past few years such as that on August 19, 2014, when seven tourism students from Bulacan State University drowned as they crossed the Madlum River to go to the Madlum Cave in San Miguel, Bulacan, and that in 2013 after seven died when a bus collided with a 14-wheeler truck along the Marcos Highway in Benguet;⁷

WHEREAS, there is a need to reassess whether the current guidelines and policies on education tours and/or field trips are sufficient to ensure the safety and security of students in HEIs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines to direct the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the safety guidelines and policies on educational tours and field trips of colleges and higher education institutions.

Adopted,



² CHED Memo Order. No. 17, art. IX, § 23.

³ CHED Memo Order. No. 17, art. V, § 8, 9.

⁴ CHED Memo Order. No. 17, art. VI, § 10, 11.

⁵ <http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2017/02/21/1674398/ched-halt-field-trips-after-tanay-crash>

⁶ <http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2017/02/21/1674398/ched-halt-field-trips-after-tanay-crash>

⁷ <http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2017/02/21/1674398/ched-officials-wants-field-trips-suspended-after-tanay-crash>