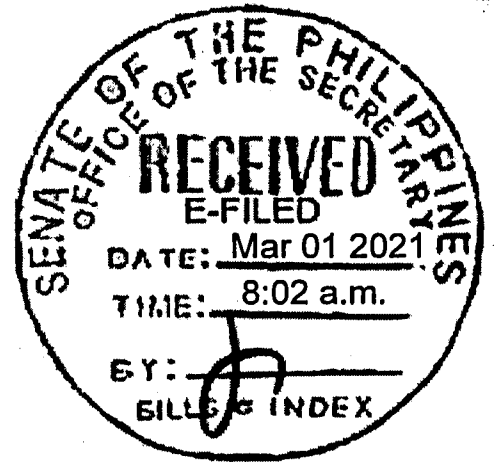


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )



SENATE

P. S. RES. NO. 663

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Introduced by **SENATOR VICENTE C. SOTTO III**

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**RESOLUTION**

**EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE TO RECOMMEND THE IMMEDIATE REOPENING OF SCHOOLS AND RESUMPTION OF FACE-TO-FACE CLASSES NATIONWIDE, ADOPTING SELECTIVE SCHOOL LOCKDOWN BASED ON THE ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION OF CONCERNED LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS**

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic has drastically affected the education systems around the globe, compelling many countries to adopt distance learning modalities to protect the pupils and students from the virus;

**WHEREAS**, for its part, the Philippines adopted a blended learning scheme which involved full online learning or the use of self-learning modules or a combination of the two processes;

**WHEREAS**, only few months after the COVID-19 was declared as a global pandemic by the World Health Organization on March 11, 2020, many countries had already started reopening their schools and resumed face-to-face classes;

**WHEREAS**, according to a UNICEF report, the Philippines is one of the 14 countries out of 150 countries worldwide and the only country in South East Asia that maintained total school closure since the beginning of the pandemic;

**WHEREAS**, there are deep concerns that, while countries whose students had performed well in the past international assessments are already back on track, the Philippines is still lagging behind using the blended learning method which to many is not an effective means due to lack of access to internet and gadgets by majority of pupils and students;

**WHEREAS**, as the data shows that in all assessments conducted prior to the pandemic by both local and international bodies, such as the National Achievement Test (NAT), Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMMS), and Southeast Asia Primary

Learning Metrics (SEA-PLM), the Philippines did not perform well, one may wonder what the Filipino pupils and students may be able to achieve during this pandemic in terms of the assessment tests to be given them;

**WHEREAS**, there is no substitute to face-to-face classes, which is probably the best way to arrest the decline in quality and to improve learner outcomes;

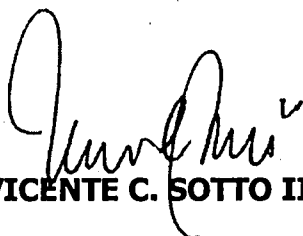
**WHEREAS**, according to reports, there are approximately 433 cities and municipalities that are zero COVID-19 which are willing to reopen the schools and, as per Department of Education, more than 1,000 schools are ready for face-to-face classes;

**WHEREAS**, it is fitting to give the local school boards, namely: the Provincial School Board, the City School Board, and the Municipal School Board, the major task of assessing and recommending whether to reopen or lockdown schools and resume face-to-face classes in their locality as they know what is best for their locality and for their schools;

**WHEREAS**, as education is the key to any country's success, there is really a need to start opening up because the Philippines is continually being left behind, being the only country in South East Asia with no face-to-face classes: Now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES**, To express, as it hereby expresses, the sense of the Senate to recommend the immediate reopening of schools and resumption of face-to-face classes nationwide, adopting selective school lockdown based on the assessment and recommendation of concerned Local School Boards.

Adopted,

  
**VICENTE C. SOTTO III**