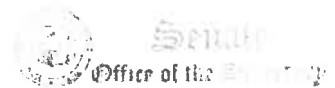


TWENTIETH CONGRESS OF THE }
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES }
Second Regular Session }



26 AUG 12 A9:10

SENATE

RECEIVED BY

P.S. RES. NO. 593

Introduced by Senator Panfilo M. Lacson

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION TO INQUIRE INTO THE STATUS OF THE PAMANTASAN NG LUNGSOD NG MAYNILA (PLM) AS A CHARTERED HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION ENTITLED TO RECEIVE FUNDING FROM THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

WHEREAS, in 1965, the first and only chartered and autonomous university funded by a city government was established by virtue of the enactment of Republic Act No. 4196. The said law established the University of the City of Manila (Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila) as a government corporation, with its own independent governing Board of Regents, to operate as a public university in the City of Manila;

WHEREAS, the university first opened its doors to the public in July 1967 serving 556 first-year students. Over the years, the PLM has steadily provided quality education covering various fields of study. At present, the university is providing quality education to some 10,399 students of which 8,842 are undergraduates;

WHEREAS, by virtue of the passage of the Local Government Code in 1991, local government units have been empowered to establish their own local colleges and universities (LCUs) within their territorial jurisdiction;

WHEREAS, in July 2015, the President of the PLM wrote a letter to the Civil Service Commission (CSC) requesting that the institution be considered a

State University or College (SUC) for purposes of appointments and other personnel actions, following several appointments that have been invalidated by the CSC Manila Field Office and CSC National Capital Region which used different standards in evaluating appointments. The latter, however, merely referred the matter to the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) for determination;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 10931 or the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act, enacted in 2016, defined Higher Education Institutions (HEI) as education institutions authorized and recognized by the CHED to offer bachelor's degree or graduate courses, and Local Universities and Colleges (LCUs) as CHED-accredited public HEIs established by local government units (LGUs) through enabling ordinance, financially supported by the LGU concerned, and compliant with the policies, standards and guidelines of the CHED;

WHEREAS, Section 15 of Republic Act No. 4196 provides that "The Municipal Board of the City of Manila shall appropriate the funds for the operation of the university". However, the subsidy provided by the City of Manila over the past years has not been enough to cover the operating expenses of PLM, constraining the institution to collect tuition and other school fees from its students;

WHEREAS, with the passage of the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act or Republic Act No. 10931, Filipino students enrolled in public higher education institutions are provided free tuition through the Unified Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education (UNIFAST) program;

WHEREAS, since the year 2023 until 2026, the PLM has repeatedly been refused reimbursement by the CHED allegedly for insufficiency of budget;

WHEREAS, because the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila was created by a national law which serves as its charter, but it receives funding only from the city government of Manila as indicated in its own charter, it places the PLM in a peculiar situation particularly on the issue of whether the same should also receive funding from the national government it being created by a national law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation to inquire into the status of the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila to determine whether it should be recognized as a chartered Higher Education Institution entitled to receive funding from the National Government, including but not limited to appropriations under the General Appropriations Act (GAA) and entitlement under the Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education (UNIFAST), even as it continues to receive funding from the City of Manila pursuant to Section 15 of RA 4196.

Adopted,


PANFILO M. LACSON
Senator