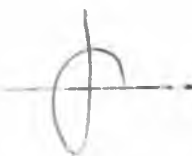


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SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 1048

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Introduced by SENATOR WIN GATCHALIAN

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ROLE OF THE NATIONAL BOOK DEVELOPMENT BOARD AS MANDATED UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8047 OR THE "BOOK PUBLISHING INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT ACT", TO IDENTIFY CRITICAL PROGRESS, EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF EXISTING POLICIES, AND ADDRESS THE ISSUES AND CHALLENGES IN THE BOOK PUBLISHING INDUSTRY, FOR THE PURPOSE OF CRAFTING COMPLEMENTARY OR AMENDATORY LEGISLATION

1 **WHEREAS**, Section 1, Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution mandates the
2 State's obligation to protect and promote quality education at all levels and to
3 take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all;
4

5 **WHEREAS**, the Government, through the enactment of Republic Act (R.A.)
6 No. 8047, otherwise known as the "Book Publishing Industry Development Act",
7 recognizes the significant role of the book publishing industry in national
8 development, considering that books, which are its products, are instrumental in
9 the citizenry's intellectual, technical and cultural development – the basic social
10 foundation for the economic and social growth of the country¹;
11

12 **WHEREAS**, R.A. No. 8047 created the National Book Development Board
13 (NBDB) to formulate, adopt and implement a National Book Policy and National
14 Book Development Plan, which will serve as the basis for fostering the viability
15 and progressive growth of the book publishing industry;
16

¹ Section 2, R.A. No. 8047

1 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to Executive Order (E.O.) No. 189 s. 2003, the NBDB
2 was transferred from the Office of the President to the Department of Education,
3 as its attached agency²;

4
5 **WHEREAS**, R.A. No. 9521 was enacted in 2009 creating the National Book
6 Development Trust Fund (NBDTF), which shall be administered by the NBDB, for
7 the support and promotion of Filipino authorship especially in science and
8 technology and in subject areas wherein locally authored books are either few or
9 nonexistent;

10
11 **WHEREAS**, R.A. No. 9521 enabled the NBDB, in coordination with the
12 national government and Local Government Units (LGUs), to undertake activities
13 to inform, promote and develop Filipino authorship and provide incentives to
14 LGUs such as, but not limited to, matching the funds being provided by the
15 LGUs, in activities that reflect their partnership toward attaining the objectives
16 of R.A. No. 9521;

17
18 **WHEREAS**, the economic contribution of the book publishing industry
19 amounted to a total of Php 9.19 billion in 2016³, which is 0.043% of the Philippine
20 Gross Domestic Product with an annual growth rate of 11.65% and 17.17% in
21 2014 and 2015, respectively, but contracted by 11.06% in 2016⁴, and contributed
22 Php 4.74 billion to the Philippine economy in 2019, or less than 1% of economic
23 output⁵;

24
25 **WHEREAS**, NBDB conducted a total of 80 Local Book Publishing Industry
26 Development Programs in 2019, which include capacity-building and trade
27 promotion initiatives; administration of awards, grants and incentives; policy
28 development, research, information system management, and information
29 campaign; and support of local book fairs in the Philippines⁶;

30
31 **WHEREAS**, while the cumulative accomplishment of NBDB in terms of the
32 number of manuscripts or titles by NBDB-registered authors has increased from
33 2018 to 2023, there has been no significant increase in the titles published by

² See <https://deped.gov.ph/about-deped/attached-agencies/>, last accessed on June 3, 2024

³ 2016 Annual Survey of Philippine Business and Industry (ASPBI)

⁴ Balisi, A. J. (2020). NBDB State of Book Publishing Industry 20200924 public. State of the Book Publishing Industry (Philippines)

⁵ See <https://books.gov.ph/the-2019-philippine-book-publishing-industry-an-executive-summary/>, last accessed on June 3, 2024

⁶ *Supra* Note 4

1 NBDB-registered authors or publishers due to a decrease in textbook
2 procurement, which is the major source of revenue of the biggest publishers⁷;

3
4 **WHEREAS**, the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Commission on Audit (COA) Annual
5 Audit Report⁸ on NBDB found:

- 6 a. Non-maximization of the agency budget for FY 2022;
- 7 b. Continuous non-utilization of the interest income from the NBDTF – no
8 grants were awarded for the support and promotion of Filipino
9 authorship thereby failing to attain the purpose for which the NBDTF
10 was established, resulting also in unutilized accumulated income earned
11 totaling Php 18.597 million;
- 12 c. Lapses in the maintenance of property, plant and equipment (PPE)
13 accounts;
- 14 d. Delayed and non-submission of financial and budget accountability
15 reports;
- 16 e. Lapses in the procurement of information and communications
17 technology equipment;
- 18 f. Inadequate implementation of local book publishing industry
19 development program, to wit:
- 20 i. No update on the National Book Policy and National Book
21 Development Plan to conform with the changing times;
- 22 ii. No Programs/Projects/Activities (PPAs) relative to the
23 annual evaluation of the progress in the shift of functions
24 from the DepEd to the private sector on the textbook
25 provision program was conducted contrary to Section 10 of
26 R.A. No. 8047 and Rule VII, Section 1(c) of the IRRs; and
- 27 iii. Absence of updated collaboration with the Commission on
28 Higher Education (CHED) on matters concerning books for
29 higher learning was also observed contrary to E.O. No. 119
30 s. 1999, or the Adoption of the National Book Policy; and
- 31 g. Non-conformance with transparency and accountability requirement in
32 government operations;
- 33

34 **WHEREAS**, considering the purpose for which NBDTF was created, there is
35 a need to determine the projects and activities undertaken on the promotion and
36 development of Filipino authorship and the incentives provided to LGUs;

⁷ FY 2024 Presentation on the NBDB Budget

⁸ FY 2022 COA Annual Audit Report on the NBDB

1 **WHEREAS**, considering further, the Government's effort in fueling
2 additional resources into education and in order to ensure the growth and
3 development of the book publishing industry, there is a need to assess and
4 identify implementation gaps on the National Book Policy and National Book
5 Development Plan, and recommend solutions on the non-utilization of the
6 interest income from the NBDTF;

7
8 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE**
9 **PHILIPPINES**, to direct the appropriate Senate committee to conduct an inquiry,
10 in aid of legislation, on the role of the National Book Development Board as
11 mandated under R.A. No. 8047 or the "Book Publishing Industry Development
12 Act", to identify critical progress, evaluate the effectiveness of existing policies,
13 and address the issues and challenges in the book publishing industry, for the
14 purpose of crafting complementary or amendatory legislation.

Adopted,



WIN GATCHALIAN