

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 527



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Introduced by Representative BELLA VANESSA B. SUANSING

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE, THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS AND THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE HAZARDS POSED BY EXISTING STRUCTURAL DESIGNS OF CLASSROOMS ON FILIPINO CHILDREN, PARTICULARLY HAZARDS CAUSED BY THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE, IN PURSUIT OF THE IMMEDIATE CREATION, DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF BUILDING PLANS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF CLIMATE CHANGE-RESILIENT AND CLIMATE-SAFE CLASSROOMS, AND FOR THE UPGRADING, RETROFITTING AND REHABILITATION OF DAMAGED OR DILAPIDATED CLASSROOMS INTO CLIMATE CHANGE-RESILIENT AND CLIMATE-SAFE CLASSROOMS**

**WHEREAS**, Article II, Section 16 of the Philippine Constitution provides that the State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature;

**WHEREAS**, through the Republic Act No. 9729, otherwise known as “The Climate Change Act of 2009”, the Philippines has adopted the Philippine Agenda 21 framework, which espouses sustainable development to fulfill human needs while maintaining the quality of the natural environment for future and current generations;

**WHEREAS**, in his second State of the Nation Address (SONA), President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. committed to retrofitting schools and facilities to withstand strong typhoons and other severe climate phenomena, in line with the administration’s broader infrastructure agenda;

**WHEREAS**, the State shall spearhead initiatives in addressing climate change issues, including disaster risk reduction, in recognition of the vulnerability of the Philippine archipelago and its local communities, especially the poor, women, and children, to potentially dangerous outcomes of climate change;

**WHEREAS**, climate change and disaster risk reduction are inherently interrelated, and effective disaster risk reduction and mitigation should be the core of the government’s initiative to strengthen and enhance national climate resilience;

**WHEREAS**, the Philippines ranks No. 1 in 2025 World Risk Index characterized by high geographic fragmentation and high exposure to water-related extremes;

**WHEREAS**, the Philippines ranks among the top five (5) most vulnerable countries to climate change impact, and the second highest in the East Asia and Pacific Region in terms of climate risk from a child's perspective;<sup>1</sup>

**WHEREAS**, children, who make up a third of the country's population in the country are at high risk from the impacts of climate and environmental shocks;<sup>2</sup>

**WHEREAS**, climate change directly disrupts education through extreme weather events, including floods, storms, and droughts, which impede learning; food insecurity diminishes children's ability to learn; and inadequate water, sanitation, and hygiene conditions further contribute to absenteeism and school dropout;<sup>3</sup>

**WHEREAS**, unsafe classrooms and inadequate facilities put learners and teachers at risk during extreme weather events;

**WHEREAS**, the Philippine education sector continues to suffer from the long-term impacts of natural calamities that have damaged school infrastructure and worsened the classroom shortage, which the Department of Education estimates to be at 165,000 classrooms for School Year 2025–2026;


**WHEREAS**, in 2024 alone, 1,855 schools sustained damage from natural hazards, requiring ₱6.6 billion for repairs and ₱5.3 billion for the replacement of 1,846 classrooms;<sup>4</sup>

**WHEREAS**, the ongoing classroom crisis amplifies the impacts of climate change on Filipino children, 96% of whom experience multiple and overlapping climate-related hazards;<sup>5</sup>

**WHEREAS**, ensuring climate-resilient classrooms will help protect the right of every child to safe, continuous, and quality education;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the House Committee on Basic Education and Culture, the House Committee on Public Works and Highways and the House Committee on Climate Change be directed to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the hazards posed on Filipino children by existing structural designs of classrooms across the country, particularly hazards caused by the effects of climate change, in pursuit of the immediate creation, development and implementation of building plans for the construction of climate change-resilient and climate-safe classrooms, and for the upgrading, retrofitting and rehabilitation of damaged or dilapidated classrooms into climate-change resilient and climate-safe classrooms.

Adopted,

  
**REP. BELLA VANESSA B. SUANSING**  
2<sup>nd</sup> District, Sultan Kudarat

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<sup>1</sup> UNICEF, 2025

<sup>2</sup> World Risk Index, 2025

<sup>3</sup> UNDP, 2017

<sup>4</sup> DepEd

<sup>5</sup> UNICEF, 2025