

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**FOURTEENTH CONGRESS**  
Second Regular Session

**HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1157**



**Introduced by Rep. TEODORO A. CASIÑO**

**A Resolution**

**Directing the House Committee on Ways and Means to Conduct an Inquiry, in Aid of Legislation, on the Basis of Department of Finance (DoF) Order No. 17-09, which Restricts the Entry of and Imposes Duties on Imported Books, as well as its Impact on the People's Access to Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Materials**

**Whereas**, the Bureau of Customs (BoC) has started imposing duties on imported books based on the recently published Department of Finance (DoF) Order No. 17-09, wherein book importers and sellers in the Philippines are required to pay 1% rate of duty for educational, scientific, historical and cultural books, and 5% rate of duty for non-educational books;

**Whereas**, the DoF guidelines on duty-free importation of books is said to be in accordance with the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, Republic Act No. 8047 or the Book Publishing Industry Development Act, and the UNESCO Florence Agreement;

**Whereas**, book importers, sellers and readers appear to have been adversely affected and have aired their protests over the imposition of duties by the DoF and BoC, in addition to the reported complaints over the strict classification process implemented by the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED);

**Whereas**, the said process of classification delays and restricts the entry of books in the market, and the BoC's imposition of duties appear to violate the Florence Agreement which affirms the Philippines' commitment to the free flow of educational, scientific, and cultural materials between countries and declares that imported books should be duty-free;

**Whereas**, importers and sellers are also required to pay allegedly high fees for the warehouse storage of imported books undergoing DepEd and CHED classification;

**Whereas**, these factors add to the cost of imported books, increase the retail prices of such books, and diminish or restrict the Filipino readers' access to published materials;

**Whereas**, the alleged "blockade" appears detrimental to Filipino book traders' and readers' welfare as well as the State's goal of improving the people's level of literacy and education;

**Now, be it resolved as it is hereby resolved**, that the House direct the Committee on Ways and Means to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the basis of Department of Finance (DoF) Order No. 17-09, which restricts the entry of and imposes duties on imported books, as well as its impact on the people's access to educational, scientific, and cultural materials.

Adopted,

  
**REP. TEODORO A. CASIÑO**  
Bayan Muna