

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

Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session



HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 872

Introduced by **Rep. Edgar Mary Sarmiento**

**A RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
THROUGH THE DEFEAT COVID-19 AD-HOC COMMITTEE, TO
EMPOWER BARANGAYS THROUGH IMPROVED GRASSROOTS
MAPPING FOR MORE EFFICIENT SOCIAL AMELIORATION
PROGRAMS IMPLEMENTATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

WHEREAS, in response to the global pandemic that is COVID-19, the House of Representatives enacted Republic Act no. 11469 or “An Act Declaring the Existence of National Emergency Arising From the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (Covid-19) Situation and a National Policy in Connection Therewith, and Authorizing the President of the Republic of the Philippines for a Limited Period and Subject to Restrictions, to Exercise Powers Necessary and Proper to Carry Out the Declared National Policy and for Other Purposes” also known as the “Bayanihan to Heal as One Act” on 24 March 2020;

WHEREAS, among the declared policies under the said Act is the immediate mobilization of assistance in the provision of basic necessities to families and individuals affected by the imposition of Community Quarantine, especially indigents and their families¹;

WHEREAS, under the said law, emergency subsidy in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P 5, 000) to Eight Thousand Pesos (P 8, 000) per month is provided to around 18 million low income households through various Social Amelioration Programs (SAP)²;

¹ Section 3 (b), Republic Act no. 11469.

² Section 4 (c), Republic Act no. 11469.

WHEREAS, in the implementation of the various Social Amelioration Programs, the Barangay is highly involved and utilized as it is the grass roots of every Local Government Unit; under the Joint Memorandum Circular no. 1, series of 2020 – Providing the Special Guidelines on the Provision of Social Amelioration Measures³ and DILG Memorandum Circular no. 2020-023 (dated 6 February 2020) – Amended Guide to Action Against the 2019 Novel Coronavirus Acute Respiratory Disease⁴, the Barangay Officials are assigned the most fundamental tasks like determining beneficiaries, preparing lists of families, distributing Social Amelioration Cards (SACs), mobilizing the Barangay Health Emergency Response Team, and establishing a Barangay Health Information Center;

WHEREAS, Barangay Officials have been hard at work in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and other relevant agencies in the implementation of the SAP;

WHEREAS, despite the fervent efforts of our government and Barangay Officials and volunteers, the distribution of financial and in-kind relief has been faced with various challenges like names of residents not appearing on Master Lists and households with several families receiving only one SAC and, consequently, having to share only one financial assistance per month;

WHEREAS, the policy of the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act and the declared goal of the President is to provide assistance to every eligible Filipino family, thus, manifesting a need to have a grass roots level Master List of families living in every household, not merely a list of households to be deemed as one beneficiary;

WHEREAS, a family is one constituted through the union of a man and a woman through marriage⁵ or by the birth of a child or children by two persons intending to build a family life together;

WHEREAS, based on the official 2015 Census data from the Philippine Statistics Authority⁶ (PSA) used by DSWD, the Philippine population is around 100, 573, 630 persons composing 22, 975, 630 households/families, resulting in the quotient of 4.4 persons per household/family;

³ Section 5.2, JMC no. 1, s. 2020.

⁴ Section 5.2.1, DILG MC no. 2020-023.

⁵ Article 1, Executive Order no. 209, "Family Code of the Philippines".

⁶ <https://psa.gov.ph/content/highlights-household-population-number-households-and-average-household-size-philippines> (retrieved 15 May 2020)

WHEREAS, considering the 2020⁷ estimated population of the Philippines at 109, 387, 948 persons vis-à-vis the household average of 4.4 persons per household/family, the country now has at least 24, 860, 897 households/families;

WHEREAS, of the 24, 860, 897 households/families, the goal of the National Government is to provide financial assistance to the estimated 18 million low income families and the gap of 5 Million to cover at least 23 Million Filipinos during this pandemic;

WHEREAS, in order to empower the Barangay and make the fulfillment of their duties and responsibilities more efficient, it is best for every Barangay to have on-hand an updated, graphic and family-centric Master List of their residents similar to the existing guidelines called “Operation Listo – Disaster Protocols for Mayors Preparedness Manual”, where Local Chief Executives are mandated to prepare a comprehensive plan that includes the location of all households within the barangay;

WHEREAS, this grass roots mapping similar to the “Operation Listo – Disaster Protocols for Mayors Preparedness Manual” will not only provide the government with an updated, graphic and family-centric Master List of the population but will also make tracking and accountability of the SAP implementation more efficient;

WHEREAS, Barangays should be given such uniform and systematic directive, from and in coordination with DILG, PSA, and DSWD, to conduct grass roots mapping, identifying and listing resident families in every household in their respective jurisdiction;

WHEREAS, the grass roots mapping shall entail the graphing of households in any given barangay, and indicating in each household the number of families living therein and the names of the heads of every family, as well as other important information such as whether the parents are legally married under the law, living as common law spouses, or solo parents;

WHEREAS, the mapping of households will reveal our current and actual data on minor parents and consequently aid the National Government in promoting the legally⁸ and Constitutionally⁹ guaranteed right of children to be supported by and be under the parental authority of their parents;

⁷ <https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/philippines-population/> (retrieved 15 May 2020).


⁸ Article 209 of the Family Code of the Philippines.

⁹ Article XV of the 1987 Constitution.

WHEREAS, urging the Local Chief Executives to execute this system and gather data of all houses will encourage and enforce the ideal door-to-door delivery system of aid, whether financial or in-kind, to the beneficiaries; consequently, the possibility of the residents crowding the barangay hall and risking contagion will be drastically minimized, if not completely eradicated;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives, through the Defeat COVID-19 Ad-hoc Committee, to empower barangays through improved grassroots mapping for more efficient SAP implementation and accountability and to enforce the ideal door-to-door delivery system of aid, whether financial or in-kind, to the beneficiaries or the creation of guidelines therefor.

Adopted,


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First District of Samar