



Republic of the Philippines  
House of Representatives

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 900



Introduced by Rep. Luisa Lloren Cuaresma  
Lone District of Nueva Vizcaya

**A RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONSIDER AND PRIORITIZE THE ACCREDITATION OF REGION 02 TRAUMA AND MEDICAL CENTER IN THE PROVINCE OF NUEVA VIZCAYA AS A LICENSED TESTING CENTER FOR CORONA VIRUS DISEASE AND BE AUTHORIZED TO ADMINISTER COVID 19 TESTING.**

**WHEREAS**, our 1987 constitution clearly provides under Article XIII, section 12, that: "The State shall establish and maintain an effective food and drug regulating system and appropriate health, manpower development and research, responsive to the country's health needs and problems;

**WHEREAS**, Presidential Proclamation No. 922, series of 2020 was issued declaring a State of Public Health Emergency throughout the country due to the existence of corona virus disease 2019;

**WHEREAS**, for faster and better response to the COVID 19 pandemic, the Department of Health and the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF), recommended that imposition of quarantine be immediately done, thus, Presidential Proclamation No. 929, series of 2020 was issued, declaring a State of Calamity throughout the Philippines and imposed an Enhanced Community Quarantine in Luzon;

**WHEREAS**, while strict implementation of the Enhanced Community Quarantine all over Luzon through the local government units assisted by our Philippine National Police and so with the Philippine Army, confirmed cases of COVID 19 positive patients keep on increasing every day. As reported by the Department of Health, as of May 15, 2020, we already have 12,091 total number of confirmed cases, 2,460 recoveries and sadly, 806 deaths;

**WHEREAS**, the consistent stand of the Department of Health and other health experts is to conduct the much needed COVID 19 testing to possibly identify the carriers of the virus, immediately isolate the patients, conduct contact tracing so that appropriate health actions will be carried out;

**WHEREAS**, recent report of the Department of Health tells us that we only have twenty six (26) accredited laboratories of which, seventeen (17) are in the national capital region and only nine (9) are in the provinces. These laboratories are the only authorized to perform the Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction Test (RT-PCR) while several laboratories are still under evaluation;

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Health also reported on May 10, 2020 that only 173,144 RT-PCR Tests were conducted. Such number only represents 0.16 per cent of our population which is very low;

**WHEREAS**, with the very limited number of authorized laboratories, the Department of Health backlog in COVID 19 tests keep on mounting, as a result, the spread of corona virus disease remains uncontrollable;

**WHEREAS**, for us to possibly carry-out the much needed mass testing, there is an urgent need, in fact, very imperative, that additional testing centers be accredited and authorized to conduct COVID 19 testing;

**WHEREAS**, all COVID 19 samples in Cagayan Valley which comprises five (5) provinces are being brought to Baguio City General Hospital, being the only authorized testing center catering to the needs of Regions I, II and CAR, such situation prolongs the waiting time of the patients and even the health officials for the test results;

**WHEREAS**, Region 2 Trauma and Medical Center, a government hospital, could cater to the testing needs of not only Nueva Vizcaya but also for the provinces of Isabela, Quirino and Ifugao;

**NOW THEREFORE: BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** by the House of Representatives, to urge the Department of Health to accredit and authorize the R2 Trauma and Medical Center in Nueva Vizcaya, the soonest possible time, as COVID 19 Testing Center.

*Adopted*

  
**LUISA LLOREN CUARESMA**