

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Resolution No. 774



Introduced by **RAYMOND DEMOCRITO C. MENDOZA**
Representative, TUCP Partylist

A RESOLUTION

**DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT AND OTHER
RELEVANT COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE EFFECT OF COVID-19 ON EMPLOYMENT
AND INDUSTRIES, AND ON THE MEASURES BEING IMPLEMENTED BY THE
CONCERNED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES WITH THE END VIEW OF ENSURING A
COMPREHENSIVE AND COHERENT MITIGATION AND PREVENTION NATIONAL
ACTION PLAN TO SAVE LIVES AND JOBS**

WHEREAS, a state of public health emergency has already been declared by President Rodrigo R. Duterte after a case of local transmission of COVID-19 and Malacañang has issued a call for "all-hands-on-deck" while the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) called for a national action plan in winning the fight against COVID-19 through a pro-active rather than reactive response;

WHEREAS, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) report titled "The Economic Impact of the COVID-19 Outbreak on Developing Asia" stated that among the countries expected to be "significantly affected" included countries with strong trade and production linkages with China and these include the Philippines whose economy stands to lose between US\$669 million and US\$1.94 billion as well as lose 87,000 to 250,000 jobs across five sectors due to the outbreak;

WHEREAS, in the light of this report, COVID-19 should not become a convenient excuse to justify lay-offs or closures, or result to massive displacement of workers, and the TUCP, expressing grave concern on the effect on employment and businesses, proposed the adoption of a national action plan to save lives and jobs that primarily involve a massive information drive with the Department of Health (DOH) undertaking a full media offensive on how the virus is transmitted and observance of basic handwashing, cough etiquette and social distancing;

WHEREAS, Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) should initiate social dialogue, partnership and cooperation between employers and workers including adoption of various measures like telecommuting, working from home, flexible work arrangements or job rotations, if necessary;

WHEREAS, saving lives does not mean losing jobs and thus, to save lives and jobs the implementation of a national action plan that involve the DOH, the Department of Trade

1 and Industry (DTI), Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Social Welfare and
2 Development (DSWD) and DOLE is urge by the TUCP for a comprehensive industry and
3 workplace protocol, both for the public and private sector workers, to identify potential
4 transmission routes and implement mitigation and control measures, including design
5 for self-quarantine of workers with symptoms without job displacement and income loss
6 through Employee's Compensation Commission (ECC) or SSS wage protection;
7

8 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 4 of Republic Act No. 11058 or the OSH Law, all employers
9 have the duty to furnish the workers a place of employment free from hazardous
10 conditions and to inform them of health risks involved or to which they are exposed to, of
11 preventive measures to eliminate or minimize the risks and steps to be taken in cases of
12 emergency, hence, workers-at-risk in the frontline like retail and fast-food chains must
13 be provided free-of-charge of personal protective equipment such as surgical masks,
14 alcohol-based hand rubs, and access to washbasins and soap. This should also be provided
15 to emergency responders, healthcare workers, tourism, travel and personal services
16 workers, border security, airport and immigration services workers, teachers, prison
17 guards and cleaners, and those declared as "essential personnel" by their respective
18 offices;
19

20 **WHEREAS**, consistent with the directive of the OSH Law, all employers should disinfect
21 and sanitize all surfaces in their company premises, malls and all buildings must regularly
22 disinfect and sanitize surface areas, escalators, handrails, elevator buttons and all public
23 areas - not just do temperature checks;
24

25 **WHEREAS**, the COVID -19 emergency reminds us all that our Government needs to invest
26 heavily in basic public healthcare infrastructure that goes up to the barangay level. We
27 have seen deadly viruses such as SARS, Ebola, swine flu and avian flu, a strong public
28 healthcare system must now be prioritized by our Government to address future public
29 health emergencies.
30

31 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, by the House of
32 Representatives to direct the Committee on Labor and Employment and such other
33 relevant Committees of the House of Representatives to conduct an inquiry, in aid of
34 legislation, on the effect of COVID-19 on employment and industries, and on the measures
35 being implemented by the concerned government agencies with the end view of ensuring
36 a comprehensive and coherent mitigation and prevention national action plan to save
37 lives and jobs.

Adopted,


RAYMOND DEMOCRITO C. MENDOZA
TUCP Partylist