

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH (18th) CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 818



Introduced by: **REP. FRANCISCO "JUN" GAMBOA-DATOL, JR.**
AND REP. ENRICO A. PINEDA

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES' APPRECIATION OF THE EFFORTS OF THE INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE ON EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES (IATF) TO PROTECT THE WELFARE OF THE SENIOR CITIZENS AND FURTHER URGING THE CONCERNED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, INSTRUMENTALITIES, GOVERNMENT OWNED AND CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS TO RELEASE MORE GUIDELINES BENEFITS FAVORABLE TO THE SENIOR CITIZENS

WHEREAS, senior citizens are considered as the most vulnerable to the dangerous effects of the Corona Virus Disease (COVID) 19 and they are at risk of being infected with the virus being economically displaced by the crisis;

WHEREAS, the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) has issued guidelines for the protection and welfare of senior citizens, which should be revisited from time to time depending on the needs of the senior citizens;

WHEREAS, while the IATF has implemented guidelines for the protection and welfare of the elderly, it has been observed that the Department of Social Welfare and Development ("DSWD") has been resolving complaints over the distribution of the Social Amelioration Program ("SAP") of the government through a process that prioritizes those originating from the National Capital Region ("NCR"), isolating and marginalizing senior citizens outside NCR on the basis of geographic discrimination;

WHEREAS, it is strongly suggested by the House Special Committee on the Senior Citizens that the DSWD resolve the complaints regarding the distribution of the SAP on the basis of time of submission and entry on the waitlist (i.e., a first in first out approach), instead of its current process which puts the interest and welfare of NCR-based citizens above those outside NCR;

WHEREAS, it is likewise recommending to the IATF and the Social Security System (SSS) to consider granting an additional Php 6,000.00 pension for persons residing in the NCR and an additional Php 5,000.00 pension for those residing outside NCR to those receiving less than Php 5,000.00 pension, considering the fact that with extension of the quarantine, any additional savings or income pensioners may be relying on to augment their pension is likewise depleting significantly with the increasing financial burdens caused by the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, it is further urged that indigent senior citizens should be included in the Social Amelioration Program (SAP) of the national government, being implemented by the DSWD in partnership with the local government units, that they may be given an additional assistance of Php 4,500.00 for those residing in the NCR and Php 1,500.00 for those residing outside of NCR;


WHEREAS, the Committee is likewise urging the Local Government Units (LGUs), specifically through the barangay, to take the initiative to deliver door-to-door the relief given by the government to their respective senior citizen constituents to prevent them from leaving their homes and becoming exposed to COVID 19 and that the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) issue a specific department order to that effect;


WHEREAS, it is further suggested that the LGUs should issue a separate quarantine pass to able, willing and healthy senior citizens who do not suffer any immunodeficiency, comorbidities, or other health risks, which shall be included in the department order that will be issued by the DILG;

WHEREAS, LGUs and other government agencies should ensure that senior citizens afflicted with COVID 19 will not be the subject of discrimination or condemnation by their community or the public;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Special Committee on Senior Citizens conducts a review and investigation, in aid of legislation, on the abovementioned concerns and recommendations affecting the rights and welfare of senior citizens.

Adopted,


HON. FRANCISCO G. DATOL, JR.
Representative
Senior Citizens Partylist


HON. ENRICO A. PINEDA
Representative
1PACMAN Partylist