

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 843



---

INTRODUCED BY REP. ROSE MARIE "BABY" J. ARENAS

---

**RESOLUTION EXPRESSING GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PHILIPPINES FOR THE ACTS OF HEROISM OF OUR UNIFORMED PERSONNEL, HEALTH AND EMERGENCY FRONTLINE PERSONNEL, AND PERSONNEL OF OTHER CRITICAL SERVICES FOR THEIR SELFLESS DEVOTION AND SACRIFICE IN THE NATION'S FIGHT AGAINST COVID 19**

WHEREAS, on 08 March 2020, President Rodrigo R. Duterte issued Proclamation No. 922 declaring a state of public health emergency throughout the Philippines due to the outbreak of the highly infectious Corona Virus Disease 2019, otherwise known as COVID-19;

WHEREAS, on 12 March 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic due to its rapid escalation;

WHEREAS, in keeping with the WHO recommendation for all countries to take pre-emptive swift action and to continue implementing containment strategy while accelerating efforts to control the spread of COVID-19, President Rodrigo R. Duterte approved on 12 March 2020 Resolution No. 11 of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Disease (IATF-MEID) placing the entire country under Code Red Sublevel Two, and subsequently placed the entire Island of Luzon under Enhanced Community Quarantine until 15 May 2020;

WHEREAS, according to the WHO Philippines COVID-19 Situation Report dated 22 April 2020, the Philippines registered a rapid increase in the number of COVID-19 cases from 09 March 2020 to 21 April 2020, with a record high of 538 new confirmed case in a single day on 31 March 2020;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has taken a significant toll among the frontliners, especially among health care professionals. In the Philippines alone, the DOH data show that, as of 17 April 2020, 766 healthcare professionals, including 339 medical doctors and 242 nurses, have contracted COVID-19.<sup>1</sup> Case Bulletin No. 52 of the Department of Health (DOH) dated 05 May 2020 showed that the Philippines has 9,684 total number of COVID-19 cases, with 1,408 recoveries and 637 deaths. Out of the total number of deaths

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cnnphilippines.com/news/2020/5/5/PNP-112-COVID-19-cases.html>. Accessed on 05 May 2020.



are twenty-one Filipino medical doctors, per records of the Private Hospital Association of the Philippines as of 07 April 2020.<sup>2</sup>

WHEREAS, as of 05 May 2020, the DOH COVID-19 Case Tracker are showing promising signs of slowing down in the number of new confirmed COVID-19 cases, though the curve has not yet flattened;

WHEREAS, our frontliners deserved to be honored as modern-day heroes because they continue to serve at the frontline of the war against COVID-19 risking their lives for the benefit of the greater good. Sadly, instead of uplifting their spirits, many of our frontliners, especially the healthcare workers, have suffered acts of discrimination from our fellow Filipinos because of their exposure to COVID-19 patients;

WHEREAS, acts of discrimination against healthcare workers, as well as against patients of COVID-19 cases, are denounced in the strongest of terms;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives, to express its heartfelt gratitude and deep appreciation to all our Filipino frontliners, withersoever dispersed, not only the uniformed personnel manning the checkpoints and the healthcare professionals tirelessly treating COVID-19 patients in hospitals but also the following: various personnel of local government units who endeavored to continue bringing food provisions and essential services to the people and assisted in the enforcement of community quarantine protocols; administrative and maintenance staff of hospitals and health facilities; private establishments and their employees related to food and medicine production; employees and staff of supermarkets, grocery stores, convenience stores, laundry shops, and food preparation establishments; delivery personnel of food, water, medicine, and other essential goods; shopkeepers and vendors in public markets; employees of banks and money transfer services; employees and maintenance personnel of water, electric and telecommunication utilities; drivers and helpers of food cargo vehicles; personnel of funeral and embalming services; garbage collectors; private security guards; farmers and fisherfolks; skeleton workforce of various agencies and instrumentalities of the government; and all other private establishments, organizations, and individuals who have done donations and volunteer works, all for their invaluable service and contribution in the nation's on-going fight against COVID-19 despite knowing very well the risks to their lives.

ADOPTED.



**REP. ROSE MARIE "BABY" J. ARENAS**  
**Deputy Speaker**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> District, Pangasinan**

---

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/733083/21-filipino-doctors-have-died-due-to-covid-19-phap/story/>. Accessed on 05 May 2020.