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

Eighteenth CongressFirst Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6914



Introduced by Rep. Edgar Mary Sarmiento

AN ACT EXTENDING THE EFFECTIVITY OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11469, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE BAYANIHAN TO HEAL AS ONE ACT, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 9 THEREOF

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The global pandemic that is COVID-19 has taken a toll on the country and on the world. Part of the Government's effort was to immediately enact laws that would provide efficient and sufficient help to as many affected Filipinos as possible.

Thus, on 23 March 2020, Congress passed Republic Act no. 11469, or the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act, which signed by the President the next day on 24 March 2020, and became effective on 25 March 2020. The law has since paved the way to Government's provision of assistance to the people through the various Social Amelioration Programs and measures taken.

Under section 9 of the law, the effectivity thereof shall be for three (3) months, which will end on 26 June 2020.

However, current circumstances show that this should not be the case.

As of 4 PM today, 1 June 2020, the Department of Health (DOH) has recorded 18, 638 total number of cases in the Philippines, with 960 deaths and 3, 979 recoveries. Furthermore, the country has just been placed on General Community

Quarantine, which allows the re-opening of certain industries for up to 50% operation.

Despite all concerted efforts to "flatten the curve," it is clear that the country still has an arduous journey towards finally defeating COVID-19. In doing so, it is best that we continue to allow the Government to continue its programs and measures taken under the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act. By extending its validity, the President will be able to continue performing essential acts such as realignment of items in the national budget and provide emergency support to vulnerable sectors.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

REP. EDGAR MARY S. SARMIENTO First District of Samar

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Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Extension. - Section 9 of Republic Act No. 11469 otherwise known as the "Bayanihan to Heal as One Act" is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 9. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect immediately upon its publication in a newspaper of general circulation or in the Official Gazette and shall be in full force and effect [only for three (3) months] UNTIL SEPTEMBER 30, 2020, unless extended by Congress: Provided, That the powers granted under this Act may be withdrawn sooner by means of a concurrent resolution of Congress or ended by Presidential Proclamation."

SECTION 2. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect immediately upon its publication in a newspaper of general circulation or in the Official Gazette.

Approved,