Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. __937__

Introduced by HONORABLE LUCY TORRES-GOMEZ

A RESOLUTION
URGING THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT TO FAST TRACK THE INTEGRATED IMPLEMENTATIONS OF R.A. 11055 (PHILIPPINE IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM ACT) AND R.A. 11315 (COMMUNITY-BASED MONITORING SYSTEM ACT)AS A VITAL DATABASE MECHANISM IN PROVIDING SOCIAL AMELIORATION DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, President Rodrigo R. Duterte issued Presidential Proclamation No. 922 declaring a nationwide State of Public Health Emergency, due to alarming increasein COVID-19 cases;

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020 the entire island of Luzon, and many other provinces, were put under Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) and other variations, which confined most Filipinos to their residences, thereby significantly restrictingcommunity-, local- and national-movement;

WHEREAS, this restriction on movement has drastically affected local and national economies, severely disruptingthe country's historically robust economic growth trend, forcing many businesses to cease operations, resulting in massive job losses and business failures, especially at the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME)-level;

WHEREAS, national and international medical and economic experts, such as the World Health Organization and the International Monetary Fund, have expressed that the negative health and economic effects of COVID-19 will likely extend to a longer time frame of 18 to 24 months, depending on the widespread availability of an effective vaccine;

WHEREAS, the ratificationof R.A. 11469 otherwise known as *Bayanihan to Heal as One Act*, legally provides for emergency cash subsidies for 18 million households for two (2) months under a P200-billion Social Amelioration Program (SAP) intended for families most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and that the distribution of the First Tranche was rife with reported incidences of confusion, inefficiencies, delaysand corruption due to challenges and difficulties in identification, qualification and verification of families that were genuinely in need of cash assistance;

1

WHEREAS, R.A. 11055 (PhilippineIdentification System Act) was enacted on August 6, 2018 and R.A. 11315 (Community-based Monitoring System Act) was enacted on April 19, 2019 and yet both are still not implemented;

WHEREAS, R.A. 11055 (PhilippineIdentification System Act)isintended to establish a unified, digital identification for all Filipinos and resident aliens for the purposes of delivering seamless, efficient and transparent social services, enhancing administrative governance, reducing corruption, averting fraudulent misrepresentations, promoting financial inclusion, among others, and that this identification system serves as the foundation and mother databases for Filipinos and resident aliens;

WHEREAS, R.A. 11315 (Community-based Monitoring System Act)is intended to be acommunity-basedmonitoring system that generates individual data necessary in targeting beneficiaries, conducting comprehensive poverty analysis, needs prioritization and designing appropriate policies, among others, and that thesedata, if they had been available in a coordinated fashion with the Philippine Identification System, would have substantially facilitatedin the identification of appropriate beneficiaries of the SAP and other social services during the COVID-19 crisis;
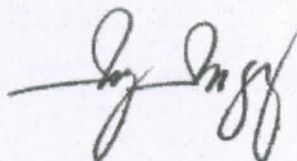
WHEREAS,the integrated implementation of R.A. 11055 and R.A. 11315, would establish a database mechanism that could considerably effect the following:
1. Improve, facilitate and strengthen the institution of accurate and transparent lists of beneficiaries for social amelioration;
2. Facilitate efficient, digital and cashlessdistribution of financial subsidies;
3. Enable national government to create targeted amelioration programs based on specific vulnerable groups;
4. Expedite and enhance the process of verifying identity and pertinent documents; and
5. Establish individual contact with every Filipino citizen and resident alien, either personally or through parents and legal custodians.

WHEREAS, such a database mechanism could form the initial level and layer of a national pre-disaster baseline data, which would result in much greater impact in how the government responds to future disasters and national crises;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to urge the national government to fast track the integrated implementations of R.A. 11055(Philippine Identification System Act) and R.A. 11315(Community-based Monitoring System Act)to establish a digital database mechanism in order to rectify, upgrade and expedite the delivery and distribution of social amelioration during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as all future government programs.

Adopted,