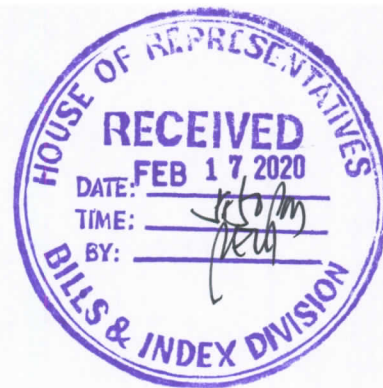


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Resolution No. 723

Introduced by Reps. Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon, Manuel Luis T. Lopez, Aloysia "Aloy" T. Lim, Francisco G. Datol, Jr., Jose "Bonito" C. Singson, Aurelio "Dong" D. Gonzalez, Jr., Allan Benedict S. Reyes, Luis N. Campos, Roman T. Romulo, John Marvin "Yul Servo" C. Nieto, Virgilio S. Lacson, Romulo "Kid" V. Peña, Veronique R. Lacson-Noel, and Strike B. Revilla

A RESOLUTION
CALLING ON THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH) TO FULLY UTILIZE ITS
POWERS AND AUTHORITY AS LEAD AGENCY IN MOBILIZING THE INTER-
AGENCY TASK FORCE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS
DISEASES IN THE PHILIPPINES (ITFMEIDP)

Whereas, it is the duty of the State to respond immediately and effectively to public health emergencies and protect its citizens from the virulent harm of both the existing and Emerging Infectious Diseases (EIDs);

Whereas, in so doing, the State commits to detect, prevent, manage, and contain these public health emergencies;

Whereas, by virtue of Executive Order No. 168, s. 2014, ITFMEIDP was created for an inter-sectoral collaboration to establish preparedness and ensure efficient government response to assess, monitor, contain, control, and prevent the spread of any potential epidemic in the Philippines;

Whereas, during the meeting of the Committee on Metro Manila Development held on 05 February 2020, it was observed that most efforts of the DOH were more reactionary than proactive to the fast spreading 2019 novel Corona Virus Acute Respiratory Disease (2019-nCoV ARD) that had entered our country after its outbreak in China was known on 31 December 2019;

Whereas, the first nCoV-related death outside China took place in the City of Manila while the victim was attended to in San Lazaro Hospital;

Whereas, the geometric rise of the nCoV-related cases, spreading to more countries in Asia, resulted to a heightened scare of the virus especially amongst Filipinos who travel or have families abroad;

Whereas, despite the rising numbers of the nCoV cases and widespread scare that resulted after the first registered nCoV-related death in the Philippines, the situation remains without a code for alert assigned by the DOH;

Whereas, the contact tracing efforts to identify who may be potentially infected by the nCoV-positive couple, confirmed earlier on, proved very slow due to lack of clear guidelines and coordination;

Whereas, under EO No. 168, the DOH, as head of the ITFMEIDP, is empowered to:

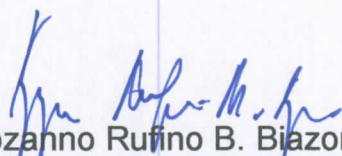
- (1) call upon any department, bureau, office, agency or instrumentality of the government, including Government-Owned or Controlled Corporations (GOCCs), government financial institutions (GFIs), local government units (LGUs), non-government organizations (NGOs), and the private sector for assistance as the circumstances and exigencies may require; and
- (2) recommend to the President the enlistment of the Armed Forces of the Philippines to supplement the Philippine National Police and other law enforcement agencies for the purpose of enforcing the quarantine of specific areas or facilitating the transport of EID patients.

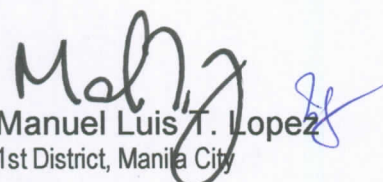
Whereas, the DOH and the ITFMEIDP have sufficient powers and authority within their means to facilitate in an expedient manner the necessary tasks to contain or prevent an emerging infectious disease like the 2019-nCoV ARD;

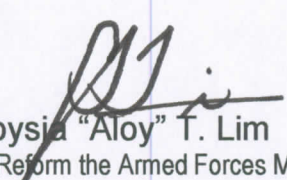
Whereas, the DOH must activate all its Task Force Members and together conquer these EIDs by optimizing their powers and authority provided by law.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives to call on the Department of Health to fully utilize its powers and authority as lead agency in mobilizing the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases in the Philippines.

RESOLVED FURTHER, to call on the members of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases in the Philippines to proactively support the Chairperson of the Task Force in the performance of his duties and in the exercise of his powers and authority to coordinate efforts and fulfill the mandate of the Task Force in ensuring the proper management of EIDs like the nCoV ARD, especially in the timely and accurate detection and diagnosis, containment, and eradication of the same at all costs.


Rozanno Rufino B. Biazon
Lone District, Muntinlupa City

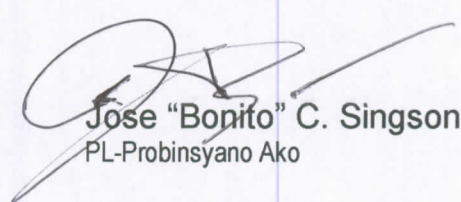

Manuel Luis T. Lopez
1st District, Manila City



Aloysia "Aloy" T. Lim
PL-Reform the Armed Forces Movement



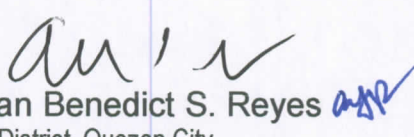
Francisco G. Datol, Jr.
PL-Senior Citizens



Jose "Bonito" C. Singson
PL-Probinsyano Ako



Aurelio "Dong" D. Gonzalez, Jr.
3rd District, Pampanga



Allan Benedict S. Reyes *asr*
3rd District, Quezon City



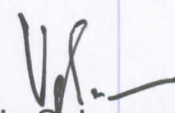
Luis N. Campos
2nd District, Makati City



Roman T. Romulo
Lone District, Pasig City



John Marvin "Yul Servo" C. Nieto
3rd District, Manila City



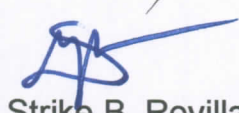
Virgilio S. Lacson
PL-Manila Teachers



Romulo "Kid" V. Peña
1st District, Makati City



Josephine Veronique R. Lacson-Noel
Lone District, Malabon City



Strike B. Revilla
2nd District, Cavite