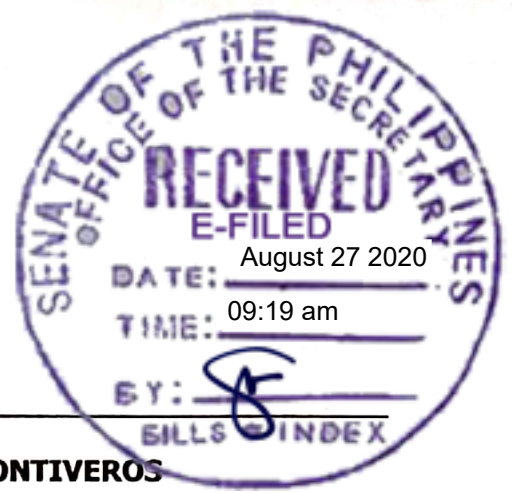


**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)**

SENATE

P.S.R. No. 506



INTRODUCED BY SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS

RESOLUTION

URGING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE STATUS AND PROGRESS OF THE BAYANIHAN PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) PROJECT, INITIATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF CRAFTING LEGISLATION TO SUPPORT DOMESTIC PRODUCERS AND MANUFACTURERS OF PPE

WHEREAS, the Bayanihan Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Project is a collaboration of the Department of Health (DOH), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and Board of Investments (BOI) to mobilize local garments and textile industry to mass produce PPE for health care workers¹.

WHEREAS, on April 5, 2020, the Confederation of Wearable Exporters of the Philippines (CONWEP) started the local production of medical-grade PPE coveralls for the Bayanihan PPE Project².

WHEREAS, the Confederation of Philippine Manufacturers of PPE (CPMP), an affiliate of CONWEP, was formed to heed the call of the government to repurpose their respective manufacturing facilities to produce and locally supply these Bayanihan PPE³;

WHEREAS, CPMP has reported its capacity to produce up to 57.6 million medical-grade face masks in a single month, but only 10 million is procured by the government and the rest were exported⁴. They added that with additional investment and expansion of workforce, they can scale up production to match the demand of healthcare facilities in the country.

WHEREAS, data from the Philippine Statistics Authority showed that in May 2020,

¹ <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1100750>

² <https://boi.gov.ph/garment-exporters-and-government-collaborate-to-produce-medical-grade-coverall-ppes-for-healthworkers/>

³ <https://www.dti.gov.ph/archives/news-archives/exporters-and-government-collaborate-to-produce-medical-grade/>

⁴ <https://www.google.com/amp/s/business.inquirer.net/305752/ppe-makers-gripe-over-doh-reliance-on-imports/amp>

the import value of PPE and other medical supplies increased by 65% year-on-year to \$32 million⁵, and the latest data in June 2020 climbed to 124.1% year-on-year to \$31.2 million⁶. No information is presented regarding the imports' country of origin;

WHEREAS, as of August 22, 2020, a post from the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) showed that the government needed medical/protective nonsterile coveralls, direct splash protection face shields, polyethylene aprons, disposable head covers, and surgical gowns.⁷ The procurement of these medical supplies is crucial yet there is an observable lack of demand from local manufacturers such as CPMP, in favor of PPE importation;

WHEREAS, on August 24, 2020, the bicameral conference committee report of the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act was ratified by Congress, wherein P 3 billion pesos will be allocated for the procurement of face masks, PPE, shoe covers and face shields, with preference to products manufactured, produced, or made in the Philippines⁸;

WHEREAS, Department Order No. 19-01 Series of 2019 issued by the DTI, prescribed that in procurement of goods, regardless of procurement method used, domestic preference shall be considered in favor of manufactured articles, materials and supplies produced, made and manufactured in the Philippines⁹;

WHEREAS, to ensure the safety and effectivity of PPE, it must meet the prescribed specification and quality assurance set by the DOH, and must conform to the recognized consensus standard established by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)¹⁰;

WHEREAS, as healthcare workers bear a much greater risk of exposure to COVID-19, they should be provided with the appropriate and medical quality PPE they deserve, to ensure effective infection prevention practices;

WHEREAS, it is imperative for the Philippine government to promote the preferential use of Filipino labor and locally manufactured products, and assure the growth and sustainability of this sector that not only provides safe and quality PPE for health care workers, but also secures job retention for thousands of skilled Filipino factory

⁵ <http://www.psa.gov.ph/content/highlights-philippine-export-and-import-statistics-may-2020-preliminary>

⁶ <http://www.psa.gov.ph/press-releases/id/162838>

⁷ <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1325778/kiko-whos-profiting-from-imported-ppe>

⁸ <https://www.cnnphilippines.com/news/2020/8/24/Local-PPE-face-mask-procurement-Bayanihan-2.html>

⁹ <https://www.dti.gov.ph/archives/advisories-archives/dao-19-01/>

¹⁰ <https://www2.fda.gov/ph/index.php/issuances-2/cdrhr-laws-and-regulations-pertaining-to-all-regulated-medical-devices/cdrhr-fda-circular/669272-fda-circular-no-2020-014-interim-guidelines-on-the-manufacture-of-personal-protective-equipment-ppe-ventilators-and-respirators-in-light-of-covid-19-situation>

workers amidst the pandemic.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED TO URGE THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO INQUIRE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE STATUS AND PROGRESS OF THE BAYANIHAN PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) PROJECT, INITIATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF CRAFTING LEGISLATION TO SUPPORT OUR DOMESTIC PRODUCERS AND MANUFACTURERS OF PPE.

Adopted.


RISA HONTIVEROS
Senator