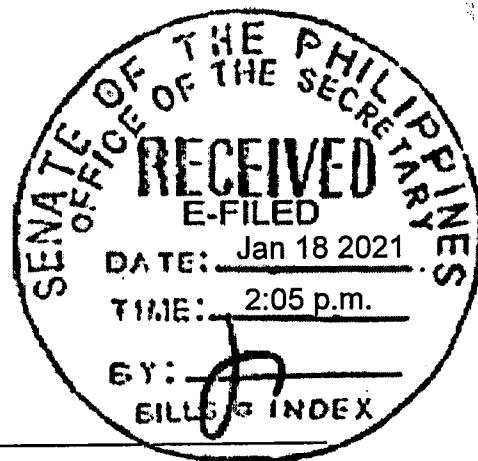


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

SENATE
P.S. Resolution No. **615**



Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

RESOLUTION
URGING THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT TO ALLOW THE LOCAL
GOVERNMENT UNITS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO ACQUIRE AND
PURCHASE COVID-19 VACCINES FOR THEIR CONSTITUENTS, EMPLOYEES,
AND DEPENDENTS

WHEREAS, Art. II, Sec. 15 of the 1987 Constitution states that, "*The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.*" Moreover, Art. XIII, Sec. 11 of the same Constitution provides that, "*the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost*";

WHEREAS, the Philippines' fight against COVID-19 is far from conclusion. As of 18 January 2021, the disease has infected over 500,577 Filipinos and caused the death of 9,895 Filipinos;

WHEREAS, the Department of Health (DOH) Secretary, Francisco T. Duque III, assured the public that the DOH will provide a detailed roadmap for the procurement of the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine in the country. Sec. Duque disclosed that the Philippines is already in close collaboration and negotiation with several international pharmaceutical companies that are currently frontrunners in the development of COVID-19 vaccines;

WHEREAS, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has already issued an emergency use authorization (EAU) for Pfizer and BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine, clearing the way for its use in the country. FDA Director General Eric Domingo said that the vaccine met the Philippines' conditions for securing an EUA specifically: evidence from well-known and controlled trials showed that "*it is reasonable to believe*" that the vaccine may be effective to "*prevent, diagnose, or treat COVID-19*";

WHEREAS, as of today, there has yet to be a clear roadmap as to how every Filipino can be vaccinated. However, the decision of the FDA would mean that the Pfizer vaccine can be distributed to Filipinos in a matter of weeks, with health and pandemic officials targeting an initial rollout by the end of February 2021;

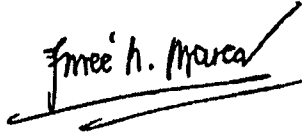
WHEREAS, some Local Government Units (LGUs) and private sectors have already signified their plea to procure vaccines. Some LGUs have even announced signing a deal with British-Swedish pharmaceutical firm AstraZeneca for the procurement of COVID-19 vaccines for their respective constituents;

WHEREAS, aside from the LGUs, Presidential Adviser for Entrepreneurship Joey Concepcion also announced that over 200 Philippine companies were also set to sign a tripartite deal with the British drugmaker and the national government to purchase vaccines;

WHEREAS, a clear, proper, and immediate vaccination program for Filipinos will significantly help and assist the government in its fight against COVID-19 to a large segment of the Philippine population;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, urging the Philippine government to allow the Local Government Units and the private sector to acquire and purchase COVID-19 vaccines for their constituents, employees, and dependents.

Adopted,


IMEE R. MARCOS