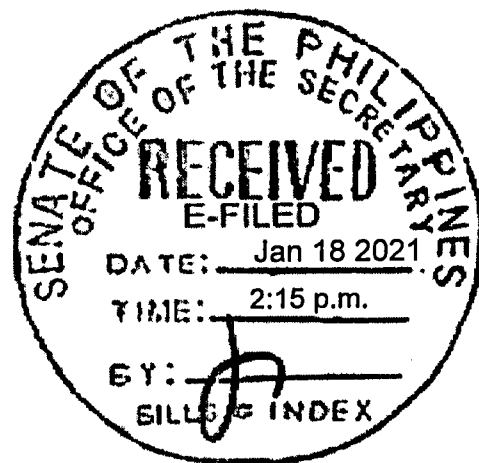


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*Second Regular Session* )

**SENATE**  
S.B. No. **1988**



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Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

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**AN ACT EXEMPTING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS AND THE PRIVATE  
SECTOR WHO ARE ACQUIRING AND PURCHASING COVID-19 VACCINES  
FROM IMPORT DUTIES, TAXES, AND OTHER FEES INCLUDING THE  
EXEMPTION FROM REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9184 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE  
"GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT REFORM ACT"**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

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."

As of 18 January 2021, COVID-19 has infected over 500,577 Filipinos and caused the death of 9,895 Filipinos. To address the continuing rise of cases, the Department of Health (DOH) 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. DOH Sec. Francisco Duque III 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.

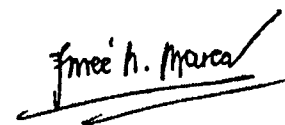
The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has already issued an emergency use authorization (EAU) for Pfizer and BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine, clearing the way for its use in the country. However, as of today, there has yet to be a clear roadmap as to how every Filipino can be vaccinated.

To help address this concern, 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. And, 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.

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. Thus, this bill seeks to exempt LGUs and private sectors who are acquiring COVID-19 vaccines and essential supplies and equipment for storage and handling from customs duties, value-added tax, excise tax and other fees including the exemption of LGUs from R.A. No. 9184 otherwise known as the "*Government Procurement Reform Act*", provided that, such vaccines shall be used by their employees and dependents.

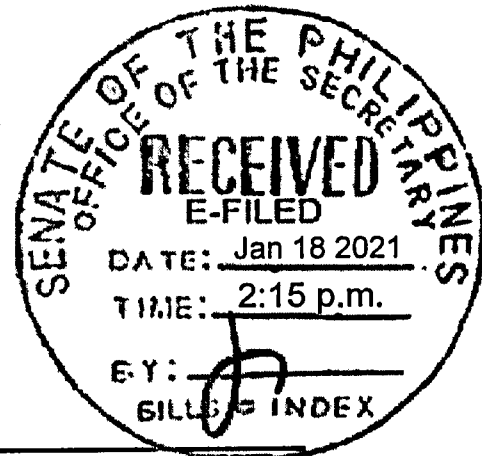
Therefore, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Imee R. Marcos", is written over two horizontal lines.

**IMEE R. MARCOS**

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

SENATE  
S.B. No. 1988



Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

**AN ACT EXEMPTING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR WHO ARE ACQUIRING AND PURCHASING COVID-19 VACCINES FROM IMPORT DUTIES, TAXES, AND OTHER FEES INCLUDING THE EXEMPTION FROM REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9184 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT REFORM ACT"**

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

1       **SECTION. 1.** *COVID-19 Vaccine Exemption from Import Duties, Taxes, and*  
2       *Other Fees for the Local Government Units and the Private Sector Including Exemption*  
3       *of LGUs from R.A. No. 9184.* – The importation of COVID-19 vaccines by the local  
4       government units (LGUs) and the private sector shall be exempt from customs duties,  
5       value-added tax, excise tax and other fees. *Provided that,* such shall also include the  
6       exemption of LGUs from the applicability of Republic Act No. 9184 otherwise known  
7       as the "*Government Procurement Reform Act.*" *Provided further that,* the vaccines  
8       acquired shall be for use of their employees and dependents and not for commercial  
9       distribution. *Provided finally that,* such exemption shall also apply to the procurement  
10      of essential medical supplies and equipment necessary for the storage and handling  
11      of the vaccines.

12       **SEC. 2.** *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Administrator, in close  
13      coordination with the DENR, DOE, DA, DOST, DOF, DOT, and NEDA and in  
14      consultation with other stakeholders shall, within sixty (60) days from the date of  
15      effectivity of this Act, promulgate and publish the rules and regulations for the  
16      effective and faithful implementation of this Act. *Provided,* That the failure of the  
17      promulgation of the said rules and regulations shall not prevent the implementation  
18      of this Act upon its effectivity.

19       **SEC. 3.** *Repealing Clause.* – All provisions of existing laws, orders, rules and  
20      regulations or parts thereof which are in conflict or inconsistent with the provisions of  
21      this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

1       **SEC. 4. Effectivity.** — This Act shall take effect effect fifteen (15) days after its  
2 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation in the  
3 Philippines.

*Approved,*