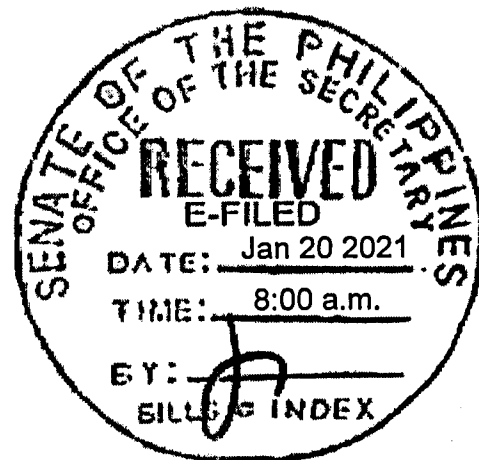


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 617

Introduced by Senator Ralph G. Recto

RESOLUTION

URGING THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT TO ALLOW THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR THE PROCUREMENT OF COVID-19 VACCINES FOR USE OF THEIR CONSTITUENTS AND EMPLOYEES INCLUDING THEIR DEPENDENTS UPON ISSUANCE OF EMERGENCY USE AUTHORIZATION BY THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF THE DISEASE AND FURTHER OPENING UP THE ECONOMY

1 WHEREAS, Article XIII, Section 11 of the 1987 Constitution mandates the State
2 to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which
3 shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to
4 all people at an affordable cost;

5 WHEREAS, the global pandemic due to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-
6 19) has caused various challenges for all Filipinos, within and outside the country;

7 WHEREAS, since the first recorded COVID-19 case in the Philippines last
8 February 2020, positive cases as reported by the Department of Health (DOH) now
9 total to more than half a million, while the death toll is currently at 9,909;

10 WHEREAS, while the positivity rate is slowly declining due to the imposition of
11 different quarantine restrictions as well as the strict compliance to minimum health
12 standards and safety protocols, new positive cases are still added every day;

13 WHEREAS, as much as the quarantine restrictions have helped in flattening
14 the curve, they also affected the economy with the closure of many business
15 enterprises and the displacement of many jobs;

16 WHEREAS, the schools were also closed for face to face classes; thus, affecting
17 many teaching jobs specifically in the private sector;

1 WHEREAS, the government is continuously opening up the economy but
2 Filipinos still lack the confidence to go out of the comfort of their homes due to the
3 risks of getting infected by the virus realizing that COVID-19 treatment is both
4 expensive and difficult due to its novel nature;

5 WHEREAS, vaccines are the breakthrough needed to prevent the spread of
6 COVID-19, attain herd immunity among the population, and eventually regain the
7 people's confidence to go out and live in the new normal set-up;

8 WHEREAS, at present, there are at least seven vaccine brands, that have been
9 approved for emergency use in other countries, that the Philippine Government plans
10 to acquire for inoculation of fifty to seventy million Filipinos as the main deliverable of
11 its COVID-19 vaccination program;

12 WHEREAS, funds to support the said COVID-19 vaccination program amounting
13 to Eighty-Two Billion Five Hundred Million Pesos (P82.5 Billion) were appropriated
14 under the FY 2021 General Appropriations Act and Republic Act No. 11494 or the
15 "Bayanihan to Recover as One Act";

16 WHEREAS, vaccines to be procured must have an Emergency Use Authorization
17 (EUA), an authorization issued by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the use
18 of unregistered drugs and vaccines in a public health emergency to ensure their safety
19 and efficacy;

20 WHEREAS, in the recent Senate Committee of the Whole hearings on the
21 COVID-19 vaccination program, the DOH and FDA stated that vaccines with EUA
22 cannot be sold for commercial use; thus, only the national government can procure
23 the same from its manufacturers;

24 WHEREAS, the Local Government Units (LGUs) and the private sector have both
25 expressed their desire and commitment to fund and procure vaccines for their
26 constituents, and employees and dependents;

27 WHEREAS, this intent of the LGUs and the private sector is with the end-in-
28 view of expediting the vaccine procurement process as well as easing the burden of
29 the national government so that the latter can focus its vaccination program on those
30 that belong to the priority, vulnerable and disadvantaged sectors of the population;

1 WHEREAS, allowing the LGUs and the private sector to procure their own
2 vaccines is a regulatory matter which may be temporarily allowed during a pandemic
3 or a state of national health emergency;

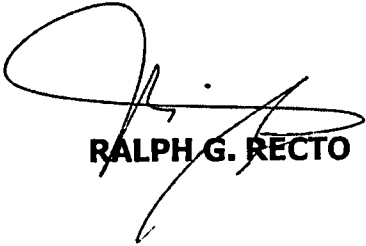
4 WHEREAS, allowing the LGUs and the private sector to procure their own
5 vaccines will prevent the spread of the disease and hasten the efforts to further open
6 up the economy which in effect will restore and create more jobs for the people;

7 WHEREAS, if allowed, the LGUs and the private sector shall only procure
8 vaccines that have EUA issued by the FDA and are still mandated to comply with the
9 documentary, procedural and reportorial requirements of DOH, FDA and other national
10 government agencies;

11 WHEREAS, if allowed, the administration of vaccines by the LGUs and the
12 private sector to its targeted recipients shall still abide by the rules, regulations and
13 procedures set forth by the DOH: Now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the national
15 government to allow the LGUs and the private sector to procure COVID-19 vaccines
16 for use of their constituents and employees including their dependents upon issuance
17 of Emergency Use Authorization by the Food and Drug Administration and subject to
18 other documentary, procedural and reportorial requirements of the national
19 government, with the end in view of preventing the spread of the disease and further
20 opening up the economy.

Adopted,



RALPH G. RECTO

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