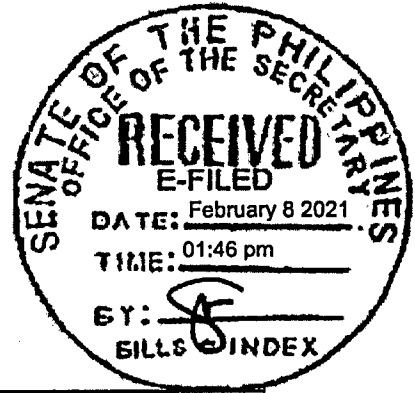


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Second Regular Session

)
)
)



SENATE

Senate Bill No. 2042

Introduced by Senator Juan Miguel F. Zubiri

**AN ACT
EXPEDITING THE PURCHASE AND ADMINISTRATION OF VACCINES
FOR THE PROTECTION AGAINST THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 BY
EXEMPTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS FROM COMPLIANCE WITH
THE PROCUREMENT REQUIREMENTS UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9184,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT REFORM
ACT," AND OTHER RELATED LAWS**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Since the new coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 was first detected in Wuhan, China in December of 2019, the disease it causes named Coronavirus Disease 2019 or COVID-19 has claimed the lives of a total of 2.2 million people from all over the world. The data, which was released by the Johns Hopkins University last 5 February 2021, also shows that the total confirmed cases has reached 104.9 million worldwide.

Like all other countries, the Philippines was not spared from the deadly respiratory disease. According to the Department of Health, as of 6 February 2021, COVID-19 has killed a total of 11,110 people in the country, and has infected a total of 535,521 patients from the time it was first detected in the country in January of 2020.

Since the pandemic started, the world has seen the implementation of some of the most extreme measures by governments from all over in order to manage and eradicate the disease that has literally claimed millions of human lives. The world came to a temporary standstill as travel restrictions were imposed. The children, the elderly and the immunocompromised are asked to stay in their homes to protect themselves from infection, and people are now required to wear protective equipment such as masks and face shields to help prevent COVID-19 transmission. Different governments and the private sector continue to work together to develop and distribute vaccines with the aim of protecting people from getting COVID-19.

The Philippine government has so far secured 25 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine from China's Sinovac, 17 million doses from the United Kingdom's Oxford-AstraZeneca, and 30 million doses from the United States' Novavax-Covovax. They are also in negotiation with Moderna, another American pharmaceutical and biotechnology company, for 20 million more.

Some Local Government Units (LGUs) have also entered into negotiations with pharmaceutical companies and have set aside their own funds to help ensure the immediate and efficient rollout and implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination program. To assist the LGUs in expediting the purchase and administration of said vaccines, this bill seeks to exempt them from compliance with the procurement requirements under Republic Act No. 9184 or the Government Procurement Reform Act, and other related laws during the period of the state of calamity due to COVID-19 pandemic or until September 12, 2021, unless the state of calamity is earlier lifted or extended by the President of the Philippines as circumstances may warrant as provided under Proclamation No. 1021, Series of 2020.

We strive to keep the bayanihan spirit alive especially during these trying times and help our leaders as they move to deliver the much-needed vaccines to the Filipino people.

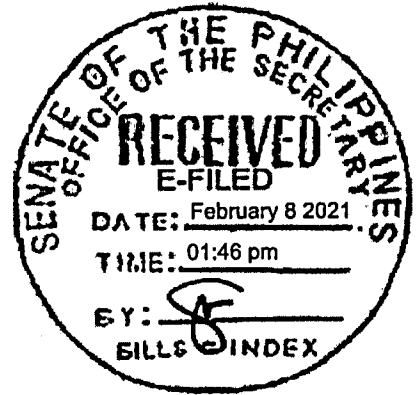
In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Second Regular Session

)
)
)



SENATE

Senate Bill No. 2042

Introduced by Senator Juan Miguel F. Zubiri

AN ACT
EXPEDITING THE PURCHASE AND ADMINISTRATION OF VACCINES
FOR THE PROTECTION AGAINST THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 BY
EXEMPTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS FROM COMPLIANCE WITH
THE PROCUREMENT REQUIREMENTS UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9184,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT REFORM
ACT," AND OTHER RELATED LAWS

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

1 SECTION 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Republic Act No. 9184,
2 otherwise known as the "*Government Procurement Reform Act*," Section 338 of
3 Republic Act No. 7160, as amended, otherwise known as the "*Local Government*
4 *Code of 1991*," and Section 88 of Presidential Decree No. 1445, as amended,
5 otherwise known as the "*Government Auditing Code of the Philippines*,"
6 provinces, cities and municipalities may directly purchase vaccines for the
7 protection against the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), and secure other
8 goods and services necessary for their storage, transport and distribution. For
9 these purposes, provinces, cities and municipalities may advance payment of not
10 more than fifty percent (50%) of the contract price if required by the supplier,
11 manufacturer, distributor, contractor or consultant.

12 SEC. 2. The provinces, cities and municipalities may only purchase
13 COVID-19 vaccines that are registered with the Food and Drug Administration or
14 issued with an emergency use authorization status. For purposes of

1 transparency, the following information must be posted in a conspicuous place of
2 the procuring local government unit:

3 (a) Approved budget for the contract;

4 (b) Name of the supplier, manufacturer, distributor, contractor or
5 consultant; and

6 (c) Amount of contract as awarded;

7 The deployment of vaccine in every province, city and municipality must
8 be in accordance with the national guidelines being implemented by the
9 Department of Health and the National Task Force against Covid-19.

10 SEC. 3. Within five (5) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary
11 of the Interior and Local Government shall, in coordination with the Government
12 Procurement Policy Board, issue the special procurement rules for the effective
13 implementation of this Act.

14 The non-promulgation of the rules and regulations provided under this
15 section shall not prevent the immediate implementation of this Act upon its
16 effectivity.

17 SEC. 4. This Act shall remain in full force and effect during the period of
18 the state of calamity due to COVID-19 pandemic or until September 12, 2021,
19 unless the state of calamity is earlier lifted or extended by the President of the
20 Philippines as circumstances may warrant as provided under Proclamation No.
21 1021, Series of 2020.

22 SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect immediately upon its publication in the
23 *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,