

**SENATE**  
**P.S.R. No. 767**

'21 JUL -7 P2:00

**INTRODUCED BY SENATOR FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO**

**RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES TO INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS AND BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN THE COVID-19 INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

**WHEREAS**, the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-MEID) has adopted "a national government-enabled, local government unit-led, and people-centered response" to COVID-19 pursuant to Resolution No. 25, series of 2020.<sup>1</sup> Local government units (LGUs) are enjoined to pursue regional cooperation in leading the fight against COVID-19 while the National Task Force (NTF) COVID-19 is directed to develop the necessary operational plans;<sup>2</sup>

**WHEREAS**, the IATF-MEID is headed by the Department of Health (DOH).<sup>3</sup> Its members currently include representatives from the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Transportation (DOTr), Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), other agencies from the executive department,<sup>4</sup> and several appointed individuals;<sup>5</sup>

**WHEREAS**, the current IATF membership does not include representatives from LGUs and the business community. This underrepresentation resulted in several reported instances when certain LGUs implemented quarantine and testing measures that were inconsistent and in conflict with current IATF-MEID guidelines.

**WHEREAS**, recognizing that LGUs are the frontliners during this pandemic, there is a need to consider the diverse experiences of provinces, cities, and municipalities and implement

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.rappler.com/nation/local-governments-lead-philippines-fight-coronavirus-pandemic>

<sup>2</sup> IATF Resolution No. 25, Series 2020, dated 17 April 2020.

<sup>3</sup> Section 1, Executive Order No 148, Series of 2014.

<sup>4</sup> IATF Resolution No. 12, Series of 2020, dated 13 March 2020.

<sup>5</sup> IATF Resolution No. 55, Series of 2020, dated 14 July 2020.

a tailor fit approach. Including the LGUs in the discourse is crucial because they possess not only a mastery of their own health care demands, administrative strengths, and logistical weaknesses, but also institutional memory of local policies.

**WHEREAS**, consultations with the business community on the IATF-MEID guidelines have to be conducted in light of the national government's pursuit of economic recovery and growth from COVID-19 pandemic. Verily, the private sector continues to be at the forefront of economic recovery and has demonstrated commitment to amplifying immunization campaigns;

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Executive Order No. 351, the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP) is recognized as the umbrella organization of all leagues of LGUs and locally elected government officials. ULAP continues to play an important role in convening local government leaders to collaborate in addressing and mitigating the effects of the pandemic as well as in expanding COVID-19 vaccination efforts across the country;

**WHEREAS**, on the other hand, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) is a non-stock, non-profit, non-government business organization of small, medium, and large enterprises, local chambers, and industry associations representing various sectors of business in pursuit of a healthier Philippine economy and to improve the viability of business in the community.<sup>6</sup> By virtue of Letter of Instruction No. 780 signed by former President Ferdinand Marcos, PCCI is recognized as the "sole official representative and voice of the entire private business community";

**WHEREAS**, in order to prevent the implementation of conflicting quarantine and testing measures across the country and to pave the way for more responsive and inclusive economic recovery initiatives, it is necessary to obtain the inputs of LGUs and the business community in formulating IATF-MEID guidelines. This can be achieved by including ULAP and PCCI representatives as members of the IATF-MEID and enabling them to recommend policies that are aligned with the holistic COVID-19 response of the national government.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Office of the President of the Philippines to constitute a more inclusive and well-represented COVID-19 IATF-MEID through the inclusion of the ULAP and PCCI representatives thereto, for the purposes of streamlining the efforts of different stakeholders and efficiently addressing and mitigating the adverse impacts of the pandemic.

*Adopted,*

  
**FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO**

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.philippinechamber.com/>.