

SENATE
P.S.R. No. 790

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRADE, COMMERCE, AND
ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND OTHER APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO
CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE PRIVATE
SECTOR'S PROPOSAL TO ADOPT THE "MICRO-HERD IMMUNITY"
APPROACH FOR WORKPLACES AND COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS

WHEREAS, Section 15, Article II of the 1987 Constitution mandates that the State "shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them";

WHEREAS, Section 20, Article II of the 1987 Constitution "recognizes the indispensable role of the private sector, encourages private enterprise, and provides incentives to needed investments";

WHEREAS, Go Negosyo founder and Presidential Adviser for Entrepreneurship Joey Concepcion recently led a virtual townhall meeting titled "How to Achieve a Merry Christmas and Better New Year 2022," which was participated in by the private sector, medical experts, government officials, and other sectors;¹

CONSEQUENTLY, the private sector urged the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) to consider further easing restrictions in workplaces and commercial establishments even before the country achieves the target "population protection";

SPECIFICALLY, the private sector proposes that the government adopt a "micro-herd immunity" approach in workplaces or business establishments. Micro-herd immunity is achieved when an establishment is able to make it a safe space by vaccinating at least 80% of its workforce. Once the target is achieved, businesses should be allowed to operate at an increased or even at full capacity;²

¹ <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/07/11/2111648/micro-herd-immunity-safe-spaces-eyed-pandemic-exit-strategies>

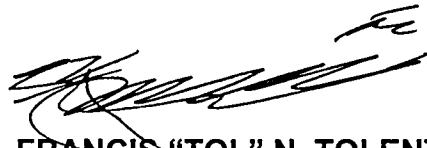
² <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1146531>

IMPORTANTLY, OCTA Research Group fellow Prof. Guido David also said that the government can consider lowering the restrictions when at least 20% of the population have been fully vaccinated.³ Currently only 4.59% of Filipinos are fully vaccinated and 5.07% have received a single dose of a vaccine against Covid-19.⁴ In the National Capital Region (NCR), only 10% of the residents have been fully vaccinated;⁵

ACKNOWLEDGING that a clear roadmap to recovery is needed to increase the confidence of businesses and consumers to safely resume their normal activities, these measures could help facilitate the safe re-opening of businesses and boost the country's economic recovery from the negative impacts of the pandemic;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the Senate Committee on Trade, Commerce, and Entrepreneurship and other appropriate Senate Committees, to conduct an investigation in aid of legislation on the private sector's proposal to adopt the "micro-herd immunity" approach for workplaces and commercial establishments.

Adopted,



FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO

³ <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1146531>

⁴ <https://ourworldindata.org/covid-vaccinations?country=PHL~IDN~THA~MYS~VNM>

⁵ <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/795155/octa-to-gov-t-prioritize-ncr-plus-8-in-distribution-of-j-amp-j-covid-19-vaccine/story/>