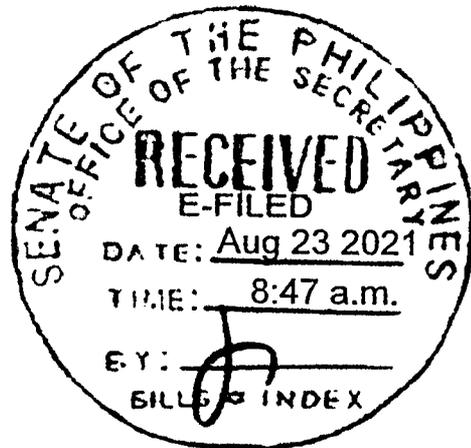


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)



SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 857

Introduced by **SENATOR LEILA M. DE LIMA**

RESOLUTION
URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND
COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY, IN COORDINATION WITH THE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, TO
FAST TRACK THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL VACCINE
DATABASE OF COVID-19 VACCINES ADMINISTERED TO FILIPINOS AS
A STANDARD MEASURE TO VERIFY PROOF OF VACCINATION AND
AVERT FALSIFICATION AND POSSIBLE ABUSES OF RECEIVING
DOSES BEYOND THE PRESCRIBED POLICIES OF THE GOVERNMENT

1 WHEREAS, Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution declares that “[t]he
2 State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health
3 consciousness among them”;

4 WHEREAS, Section 12 of Republic Act No. 11525, otherwise known as the
5 “COVID-19 Vaccination Program Act of 2021”, mandates the Department of Health
6 (DOH) to issue digital or printed vaccine cards to all individuals inoculated with
7 government-approved vaccines. In the same section, the DOH, through the
8 Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), shall develop
9 the Local Government Unit (LGU)-based digital systems and applications that will
10 meet the objectives of the COVID-19 Vaccination Program while maintaining quality,
11 safety, ease of use, and accessibility for all Filipinos;

12 WHEREAS, as the government rolled out its vaccination program, there has
13 been severe concerns from health experts, LGUs, and law enforcement entities on the
14 capacity of the government to verify the validity of vaccination cards due to the
15 unavailability of a central repository or database of vaccinated persons which leaves

1 our police forces to apply the “presumption of regularity” standard relative to the
2 vaccine cards presented;¹

3 WHEREAS, the absence of a central and national database and system of
4 releasing of vaccination cards by LGUs, which do not have a uniform design,
5 contributes to the challenge of efficiently identifying authentic vaccination cards and
6 confirming if an individual has been really inoculated with COVID-19 vaccines;

7 WHEREAS, the need for a standardized card and a secure and credible database
8 has all the more become indispensable in light of the announcement that fully
9 vaccinated individuals traveling within the country could now skip tests for COVID-19
10 and participate in many activities so long as they are able to present domestic
11 vaccination cards, preferably coming from the Bureau of Quarantine;

12 WHEREAS, six erring Boracay tourists were nabbed last 21 January for
13 falsification of public documents just to be able to travel. On 3 February, three² of the
14 six tourists tested positive for COVID-19. Just a few months after or on June 2021,
15 seven Boracay tourists from Metro Manila were arrested for allegedly presenting fake
16 reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) test results³;

17 WHEREAS, the Muntinlupa City government received reports of alleged faking
18 and selling of fake vaccination cards in numerous computer shops in the city;⁴

19 WHEREAS, LGUs claimed that the national government did not give specific
20 guidance on what should a vaccination card look like nor the security features it must
21 contain. It was “chaotic” for LGUs, as they had to create their own style. It is further
22 claimed that DICT’s supposed task of issuing digital vaccination cards remained as a

¹ Ong, G. (6 July 2021) *Cops on lookout for fake vaccination cards*. Retrieved last 14 August 2021 from:
<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/07/06/2110472/cops-lookout-fake-vaccination-cards>

² Burgos, N. (3 February 2021). *3 Boracay tourists who faked their negative RT-PCR results test positive for COVID-19*. Retrieved 15 August 2021 from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1391482/3-boracay-tourists-who-faked-their-negative-rt-pcr-results-test-positive-for-covid-19>

³ Rendon, J. (7 June 2021). *7 Boracay tourists nabbed over fake swab test results*. Retrieved 15 August 2021 from <https://www.philstar.com/nation/2021/06/07/2103566/7-boracay-tourists-nabbed-over-fake-swab-test-results>

⁴ Hicap, J. (7 August 2021). *Computer shops probed for faking, selling vaccination cards in Muntinlupa*. Retrieved 15 August 2021 from <https://mb.com.ph/2021/08/07/computer-shops-probed-for-faking-selling-vaccination-cards-in-muntinlupa/>

1 mere “plan”. To date, each city in Metro Manila has its own designs and styles of
2 vaccination card;⁵

3 WHEREAS, the effects of the inability to issue standardized vaccination cards
4 have been experienced by our OFWs. Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin, Jr.
5 recently announced that Hong Kong is not accepting the country’s locally issued
6 vaccination cards because “they are not connected to a single source”⁶. As a result,
7 OFWs working in Hongkong are stranded and failed to start working as they wait for
8 our government to meet the requirements of Hong Kong;

9 WHEREAS, on 13 August 2021, an individual who has received two full doses
10 of the COVID-19 vaccine in Mandaluyong City attempted and successfully received his
11 third or booster shot in Quezon City.⁷ The said breach in the approved protocol on the
12 allowed number of COVID-19 jabs proves that there are serious challenges in
13 validating and ensuring that all individuals are following the existing policies on the
14 administration of COVID-19 vaccines in the country;

15 WHEREAS, the DICT claimed that it could not yet issue digital vaccination
16 cards because of outdated records from LGUs and their own systems. The issuance of
17 certificate of record was “temporarily held in abeyance.” DICT claimed that it was
18 aiming to distribute the COVID-19 certificates at the onset of August 2021. However,
19 to date, certificates are yet to be issued⁸ as LGUs are still seeking to finish the updating
20 of their database. They aim to submit it to DICT within the month of August⁹;

21 WHEREAS, this apparent gap between what is required by law and what is
22 happening before our eyes will create a major backlog and more problems in the near
23 future as more Filipinos are beginning to travel abroad for work;

⁵ Cabalza, D. (8 July 2021). *Where are the standardized vaccine cards? Mayor Binay asks*. Retrieved last 15 August 2021 from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1457167/where-are-the-standardized-vax-cards-mayor-binay-asks>

⁶ Cheng, W. (11 August 2021) *Locsin to ask Hong Kong to accept PH's COVID-19 vaccination cards*. Retrieved last 14 August 2021 from <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/08/11/21/locsin-to-ask-hong-kong-to-accept-phs-covid-19-vaccination-cards>

⁷ GMA News (13 August 2021) *Man who got 3 COVID-19 jabs used same name to register in Mandaluyong, QC*. Retrieved last 14 August 2021 from <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/metro/799277/man-who-got-3-covid-19-jabs-used-same-name-to-register-in-mandaluyong-qc/story/>

⁸ Chiu, P.D, Santos, T. (12 August 2021) *Stopgap eyes as PH still lacks unified COVID-19 vaccination cards*. Retrieved 15 August 2021 from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1472473/stopgap-eyed-as-ph-still-lacks-unified-vax-cards>

⁹ Casilao, J. (14 August 2021) *NCR mayors coordinating with DICT for unified vaccination card*. Retrieved 15 August 2021 from <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/metro/799296/ncr-mayors-coordinating-with-dict-for-unified-vaccination-card/story/>

1 WHEREAS, while there have been several efforts to improve the security
2 features of LGU-issued vaccination cards by several local chief executives¹⁰, the lack of
3 a standard verification system in place continues to make vaccination cards even more
4 susceptible to counterfeiting or illegal replication. This may later on discredit and all
5 the more doubt the integrity of the government's vaccination program;

6 WHEREAS, the development of a national database of COVID-19 vaccination
7 will comprehensively address the legitimate concerns and issues that put into question
8 the standards and capacity to guarantee and certify that all vaccinated persons in the
9 country are authentically inoculated and protected against the mutating COVID-19;

10 WHEREAS, the availability of a centralized database of COVID-19 vaccinations
11 will allow law enforcement units to efficiently identify and verify truthfulness of
12 presented vaccination cards, discourage and apprehend individuals who are faking
13 said documents, and sustain the progress and efforts that the government has made
14 in the vaccination program;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, to urge the
16 Department of Information and Communications Technology, in coordination with
17 the Department of Health and Local Government Units, to fast track the development
18 of a national vaccine database of COVID-19 vaccines administered to Filipinos as a
19 standard measure to verify proof of vaccination and avert falsification and possible
20 abuses of receiving doses beyond the prescribed policies of the Government.

Adopted,


BEILA M. DE LIMA

¹⁰ Pascual, J. (10 July 2021) *Ilang LGUs sa NCR, tiniyak safety features ng kanilang vaccination cards*. Retrieved last 14 August 2021) from <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/07/10/21/ilang-lgus-sa-ncr-tiniyak-safety-features-ng-kanilang-vaccination-cards>