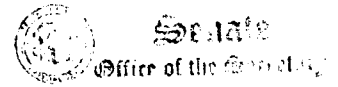


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )



24 JAN 25 A11 :53

SENATE  
Proposed Senate Resolution No. 915

RECEIVED

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Introduced by Senator Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel III

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**A RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPLEMENTATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH OF THE LEGAL INSTRUMENTS ISSUED BY THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF FORMULATING STANDARDS TO DISCERN WHICH OF THE ISSUANCES ISSUED BY THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION SHOULD PASS SENATE SCRUTINY BEFORE THEIR IMPLEMENTATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

1  
2       **WHEREAS**, Section 21, Article VII of the 1987 Philippine  
3 Constitution provides that “No treaty or international agreement shall be  
4 valid and effective unless concurred in by at least two-thirds of all the  
5 Members of the Senate”;

6  
7       **WHEREAS**, the Philippines, one of the founders of the World Health  
8 Organization (WHO), joined the WHO on 9 July 1948. Since then, the  
9 WHO has been closely collaborating with the Philippine Government  
10 through the Department of Health (DOH) in advancing public health in the  
11 country<sup>1</sup>;

12  
13       **WHEREAS**, in the wake of the crisis caused by the COVID-19  
14 pandemic, the WHO initiated a “reform process” which will bring about  
15 significant changes to all 194 member-states of the WHO. Commencing in

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<sup>1</sup> *Picturing Health in the Philippines: 75 Years of Hope and Progress*. World Health Organization.  
<<https://www.who.int/philippines/news/spotlights/picturing-health-in-the-philippines-75-years-of-hope-and-progress>>

1 2021, negotiations have been ongoing for the crafting of two legal  
2 instruments, namely, (1) a new Pandemic Treaty<sup>2</sup>; and (2) significant  
3 amendments to the already existing International Health Regulations  
4 (IHR)<sup>3</sup>. The drafting of these international legal documents is about to be  
5 finalized with final vote thereon expected sometime in May 2024 and with  
6 the same taking effect a year after in May 2025<sup>4</sup>;

7  
8 **WHEREAS**, it must be recalled that the WHO was guilty of  
9 mismanagement of the COVID-19 outbreak as shown, for example, by the  
10 following facts: (1) unjustified delays in informing member states about a  
11 potentially serious disease outbreak in Wuhan, China, and (2) repeated  
12 grossly inaccurate or misleading claims about the transmissibility of the  
13 virus<sup>5</sup>;

14  
15 **WHEREAS**, it must also be recalled that the Department of Health  
16 said that it received reports that COVID-19 vaccination data from the  
17 Philippines "housed within the WHO" have been compromised and leaked.  
18 The Department of Information and Communications Technology said  
19 vaccination data from the Philippines have been uploaded to the dark web  
20 following a supposed cyberattack on the WHO database<sup>6</sup>;

21  
22 **WHEREAS**, the DOH, has been the *de facto* implementer of policies  
23 issued by the WHO. By way of example, just last October 2023, the DOH,  
24 in collaboration with the WHO, launched the 2024-2028 Philippine Council  
25 for Mental Health (PCMH) Strategic Framework to guide the development  
26 and implementation of mental health policies, programs, and services to

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<sup>2</sup> Patrick Butchard and Bukky Balogun. *What is the proposed WHO Pandemic Preparedness Treaty?* UK Parliament. 14 December 2023. <<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9550/>>

<sup>3</sup> *Governments make progress towards agreeing amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005)*. World Health Organization. 7 October 2023. <[https://www.who.int/news/item/07-10-2023-governments-make-progress-towards-agreeing-amendments-to-the-international-health-regulations-\(2005\)](https://www.who.int/news/item/07-10-2023-governments-make-progress-towards-agreeing-amendments-to-the-international-health-regulations-(2005))>

<sup>4</sup> *WHO Pandemic Treaty: what is it and how will it save lives in the future?* World Economic Forum. 26 May 2023. <<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2023/05/who-pandemic-treaty-what-how-work/>>

<sup>5</sup> Stephen Buranyi. *The WHO v coronavirus: why it can't handle the pandemic*. The Guardian. 10 April 2020. <<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2020/apr/10/world-health-organization-who-v-coronavirus-why-it-cant-handle-pandemic>>

<sup>6</sup> CNN Philippines Staff. *WHO Philippines denies role in COVID-19 vaccination data leak*. CNN Philippines. 17 November 2023. <[https://www.cnnphilippines.com/news/2023/11/17/covid-19-vaccination-data-who-doh-dict-data-leak.html#google\\_vignette](https://www.cnnphilippines.com/news/2023/11/17/covid-19-vaccination-data-who-doh-dict-data-leak.html#google_vignette)>

1 address the significant burden of mental illness and improve mental health  
2 and well-being in the country<sup>7</sup>;

3  
4 **WHEREAS**, leaving this matter uninvestigated will lead to granting  
5 the WHO unbridled power to influence our national policies on health. This  
6 presents a clear and present danger to national sovereignty, bearing in mind  
7 as well, the strong lingering doubts as to the competence or integrity of the  
8 WHO<sup>8</sup>;

9  
10 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** as it is hereby resolved,  
11 to direct the appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of  
12 legislation, on the implementation by the Department of Health of the legal  
13 instruments issued by the World Health Organization, with the end in view  
14 of formulating standards to discern which of the issuances issued by the  
15 World Health Organization should pass Senate scrutiny before their  
16 implementation by the Department of Health.

*Adopted,*

  
AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III

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<sup>7</sup> **DOH, WHO launch Philippine Council for Mental Health Strategic Framework 2024-2028.** World Health Organization. 12 October 2023. <<https://www.who.int/philippines/news/detail/12-10-2023-doh-who-launch-philippine-council-for-mental-health-strategic-framework-2024-2028>>

<sup>8</sup> We adopt the view of Representative Dan S. Fernandez in his Explanatory Note for House Bill No. 9563, also known as the "*No WHO Pandemic Preparedness Treaty Without Senate Approval Act*", filed in the House of Representatives on 20 November 2023.