



SENATE  
P.S. Resolution No. **315**

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Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

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### RESOLUTION

#### **URGING THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH TO PROVIDE CONGRESS AN IMPACT RISK ASSESSMENT REPORT OF THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS EPIDEMIC AND PROPOSE A MANAGEMENT AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN THEREOF**

**WHEREAS**, Article II, Section 19 of the 1987 Constitution provides that the State shall develop a ***self-reliant and independent national economy***. Section 15 of the same Article states that, "*the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them (Section 15)*" and, "*it shall protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare (Section 18)*";

**WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization (WHO) on 30 January 2020 declared a global health emergency and an outbreak of the novel coronavirus (nCoV) which was first reported in Wuhan, China on 31 December 2019, and described as a new strain that has not been previously identified in humans, and belongs to a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV);

**WHEREAS**, as of 02 February 2020, there are at least twenty thousand plus confirmed cases worldwide, with the majority in China, and 361 deaths worldwide;

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Health (DOH) and the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) revealed that as of 01 February 2020, two (2) tested positive for nCoV, a 38-year-old Chinese female and her companion, a 44-year-old Chinese male, both admitted for isolation and supportive treatment at San Lazaro Hospital

from Wuhan, China and arrived from Hong Kong on 21 January 2020, and to date there are eighty (80) persons under investigation for suspected nCoV infection;

**WHEREAS**, the first fatality outside of China occurred in the Philippines the abovementioned Chinese male on 01 February 2020 which could potentially cause widespread contamination and even incur a ban and counter quarantine on Filipino residents and into Philippine territory;

**WHEREAS**, even Chinese officials suspend travel in and out of Wuhan and in the Hubei province on 23 January 2020, the Philippines, and similar to other countries, the government has implemented a temporary travel ban for travelers coming from China, Macao, and Hong Kong to prevent the spread of the virus in the country;

**WHEREAS**, the DOH is urging the public to take proactive measures particularly addressing those in the frontline services such as: tourism, health care, hotel and management, and retail, among others;

**WHEREAS**, despite government's economic managers' confidence that the nCoV epidemic will have a minimal impact on the country's growth, inasmuch Philippine tourism receipts account for a mere 2.3 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) or about \$7.6 billion in 2018, nevertheless, the country will inevitably incur economic losses in spillover industries such as the Philippine Offshore Gaming Operator (Pogos) occupying 10 percent (10%) of total office space in the National Capital Region, with employees largely coming from China;


**WHEREAS**, the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) and other related agencies such as the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), DOH, etc. assist Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) seeking employment in China and its special administrative regions affected by the temporary travel ban, and Bureau of Immigration Spokesperson Dana Sandoval stated that, "*Lahat po ng (All) Filipino nationals who are in the country will not be allowed to depart for Hong Kong, China, and Macao. Wala pong (There is no)*

*distinction between visa types dun sa lumabas na direktiba doon sa (in the directive on the) travel ban,"* there can be no doubt that delays, losses, and health issues of OFWs may require safeguards and compensatory measures;

**WHEREAS**, the economic team, composed of Finance Sec. Sonny Dominguez, Socioeconomic Planning Sec. Ernesto Pernia, and Budget Secretary Wendel Avisado, having met on 30 January 2020 to discuss the country's economic performance targeting a growth rate of 6.5% to 7.5% in 2020, should present an emergency plan to offset the country's anticipated financial losses immediately, in an impact risk assessment and plan;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, urging the executive branch to provide Congress an Impact Risk Assessment Report of the novel coronavirus epidemic and propose a Management and Economic Recovery Plan thereof.

*Adopted,*

  
**IMEE R. MARCOS**