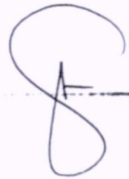


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

OFFICE OF THE
CLERK OF THE SENATE

20 MAR -2 P1:39

SENATE
P. S. Res No. 335

RECEIVED BY 

Introduced by Senator Francis "Tol" N. Tolentino

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE NEED TO PROVIDE
EMERGENCY FINANCIAL STIMULUS PACKAGES TO ASSIST THE DOMESTIC
TOURISM INDUSTRY, IN RESPONSE TO THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF THE
CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) IN THE PHILIPPINES.

WHEREAS, the outbreak of the novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) continues to threaten the Philippines and the rest of the world and has been declared by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern;

WHEREAS, according to the WHO there are currently 81,109 confirmed cases worldwide with 2,918 cases outside of China as of February 26, 2020;

WHEREAS, in the Philippines, according to the Department of Health, as of February 27, 2020, there are 64 admitted Persons Under Investigation (PUI), 3 confirmed cases, and 1 death;

WHEREAS, there has still been no proven cure or vaccine for COVID-19 and entire countries continue to cripple in fear;

WHEREAS, by reason of the spread of COVID-19, stock markets have tanked, schools have suspended classes, factories have ceased operations, business establishments have closed, and flights, both domestic and international have been cancelled indeterminately;

WHEREAS, according to the World Travel and Tourism Council, in a study conducted with Oxford Economics, the deadly coronavirus epidemic will cost world tourism at least \$22 billion and up to \$73 billion most likely affecting economies dependent on Chinese tourism, such as Hong Kong and Macau, Thailand, Cambodia and the Philippines;

WHEREAS, the Philippines has not been spared from these effects;

WHEREAS, starting February 2, 2020, the Philippines has cancelled flights to and from selected cities in China, including Hong Kong and Macau, Taiwan for a period of time, South Korea, and possibly even more countries will be included as the disease spreads;

WHEREAS, this disruption in aviation will definitely affect the tourism industry in the country wherein thousands, if not millions of Filipinos, depend their livelihoods on;

WHEREAS, the WHO and the United Nations World Tourism Organization, on February 27, 2020 issued a joint statement calling for responsibility and coordination regarding health and tourism management during this crisis;

WHEREAS, there is a need to assist the tourism industry not just to support the affected establishments, employers, and employees to maintain the country's economic growth, but also to ensure that safety measures are in place to prevent the spread of the virus;

WHEREAS, affected countries especially in Asia have started implementing economic and fiscal emergency response mechanisms to counter the damaging effects of the disease and leading in these efforts is Indonesia, an ASEAN neighboring country with a vibrant tourism industry like ours, which has announced its almost \$742 million stimulus package for its tourism, airline, and housing sectors hit by the COVID-19 outbreak, comprised of interest rebates, tax incentives, marketing budgets, and cash grants in order to support economic growth despite the global health crisis;

WHEREAS, the Senate Committee on Tourism, on its hearing last February 11, 2020 has recognized this need most especially considering that more than 80% of our tourism industry is still made up of micro, small, and medium enterprises like tour operators, travel agencies, moms and pops establishments, and small hotels

which may not be able to survive this slump in the number of tourists compared to bigger establishments;

WHEREAS, before it becomes too late, the time to act is now;

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, to direct the appropriate senate committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation on the need to provide emergency financial stimulus packages to assist the domestic tourism industry, in response to the negative effects of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) in the Philippines.

Adopted,



FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO