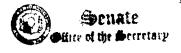
EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES *First Regular Session* 



20 MAR -9 P6:51

## S E N A T E P.S. Res. No. **349**

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RECEIVED

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

## RESOLUTION

## URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, IN COORDINATION WITH THE NATIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT COUNCIL, AND MOBILE PHONE SERVICE PROVIDERS TO SEND FREE MOBILE ALERTS ON THE 2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

WHEREAS, Article 2, Section 15 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution directs the
 State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health
 consciousness among them;

4 WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 10121, otherwise known as the "Philippine 5 Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act" defines "disaster" as "...a serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society involving widespread 6 human, material, economic or environmental losses and impacts, which exceeds the 7 ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources. 8 Disasters are often described as a result of the combination of: the exposure to a 9 hazard; the conditions of vulnerability that are present; and insufficient capacity or 10 measures to reduce or cope with the potential negative consequences, Disaster 11 impacts may include loss of life, injury, disease and other negative effects on 12 human, physical, mental and social well-being, together with damage to property, 13 destruction of assets, loss of services, Social and economic disruption and 14 15 environmental degradation."

WHEREAS, R.A. 10121 also defines "hazard" as a "...dangerous phenomenon, substance, human activity or condition that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, loss of livelihood and services, social and economic disruption, or environmental damage."

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1 WHEREAS, finally, R.A. No. 10121 mandates the National Disaster Risk 2 Reduction and Management Council to develop a "…comprehensive, all hazards, 3 multi-sectoral, inter-agency and community-based approach to disaster risk 4 reduction and management.";

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5 WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 10639, otherwise known as "*The Free Mobile* 6 *Disaster Alerts Act"* mandates mobile phone service providers, in the event of a 7 calamity, to send out alerts at regular intervals shall consist of up-to-date 8 information from the relevant agencies. The alerts shall include contact information 9 of local government units and other agencies required to respond to the situation;

WHEREAS, on 31 December 2019, health authorities in China alerted the
World Health Organization (WHO) of several cases of unusual pneumonia in Wuhan,
a port city in the central Hubei province;

WHEREAS, the mysterious disease was eventually identified to be a new
member of the family of coronaviruses which also caused the Severe Acute
Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) breakout in 2002 to 2004 the Middle East Respiratory
Syndrome (MERS) outbreaks from 2012 to 2018. This new virus is now known as the
2019 Novel Coronavirus, or COVID-19;

18 WHEREAS, on 30 January 2020, the WHO declared the COVID-19 a global19 emergency;

20 WHEREAS, the WHO has reported that so far there are 80,859 cases of 21 COVID-19 around the world, with a total death toll of 3,100;

22 WHEREAS, the detection of COVID-19 is further complicated because 23 individuals may be asymptomatic for up to 21 days;

WHEREAS, in severe cases, COVID-19 is known to cause pneumonia leading to respiratory failure particularly in vulnerable individuals such as older adults and people who have chronic conditions such as heart disease, lung disease and diabetes;

28 WHEREAS, as of this date, the Philippines has recorded 20 COVID-19 cases,
29 with 410 cases appearing just the other day;

30 WHEREAS, immediately after the discovery of the new cases, COVID-19 was 31 declared a state of public health emergency through a Presidential proclamation;

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WHEREAS, there is no doubt that COVID-19 is a disaster or a calamity under
 the applicable laws, especially after it was declared a health emergency by the WHO
 and the President, respectively;

WHEREAS, the first step in containing a virus is to make information on it viral
through all available means, and improve the spread of information to counter
misinformation and to prevent mass hysteria;

WHEREAS, information on COVID-19 can be further strengthened and
augmented through the use of mobile text alerts under R.A. No. 10639;

9 WHEREAS, the free mobile text alerts should contain, at a minimum, the 10 regularly updated summary of confirmed cases, the affected areas of recent cases 11 for the purpose of contact tracing, relevant information on preventing the spread of 12 COVID-19, its known symptoms and when to be concerned, as well as a 24/7 hotline 13 to the DOH to report suspected cases;

14 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of 15 the Philippines, urging the Department of Health, in coordination with the National 16 Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, and Mobile Phone Service 17 Providers to send free mobile alerts on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Adopted,

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GRACE POE