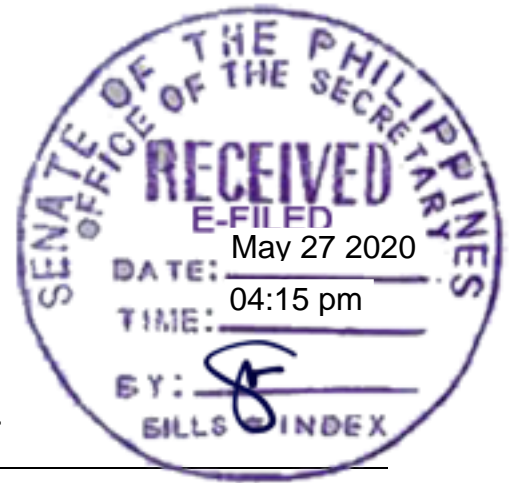


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

SENATE
P. S. Res No. 427



Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ROLE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN FIGHTING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, INCLUDING THE USE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN DEVELOPING PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS THAT WILL HELP THE COUNTRY ADAPT TO THE NEW NORMAL

1 WHEREAS, as the country experiences the devastating effects of the
2 Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic, almost every aspect of the lives of
3 Filipinos has been extensively affected, especially health, finance, food, water,
4 electricity, education and transportation;

5
6 WHEREAS, the role of science and technology in understanding the present and
7 future pandemic threats is now relevant more than ever;

8
9 WHEREAS, according to the United Nations Conference on Trade and
10 Development, the COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the pressing need for
11 countries to focus more on elevating science, technology and innovation (STI) in both
12 policy and practical terms. But the coronavirus pandemic also drives leaders to ensure
13 that the development benefits of STI translate directly into the daily lives of people all
14 over the world¹;

15
16 WHEREAS, the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)
17 policy brief finds that there is vast room for improvement in the way the world
18 harnesses science and technology to resolve global challenges, such as the COVID-19
19 pandemic. The policy brief's recommendations address the pandemic recovery and
20 contributions of science towards the Sustainable Development Goals²;

¹ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Science, technology and innovation efforts to address COVID19, unctad.org (last visited March 27, 2020), <https://unctad.org/en/Pages/CSTD/CSTD-and-COVID-19.aspx>.

² United Nations Department of Economics and Social Affairs, COVID-19 response demands better use of science and technology (April 22, 2020), un.org, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/en/news/policy/covid-19-response-demands-better-use-of-science-and-technology.html>.

1 WHEREAS, the UN DESA recommends the following: (1) strengthening the use
2 of science in policy, (2) building public trust in science, (3) ensuring “open science,”
3 (4) ensuring universal access to solutions and (5) faster action in response to scientific
4 findings³;

5
6 WHEREAS, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) is the country’s
7 lead agency mandated to provide central direction, leadership and coordination of
8 scientific and technological efforts and ensure that the results therefrom are geared
9 and utilized in areas of maximum economic and social benefits for the people;

10
11 WHEREAS, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the DOST has rolled out 20
12 research and development outputs and scientific services which were featured in its
13 “20 in 2020 Technology Catalogue”. These programs and local technologies include
14 the areas of health and nutrition, microsatellite development, convergence of art and
15 science, textile, weather monitoring, tissue culture planting, transportation, rural
16 development, and science education⁴;

17
18 WHEREAS, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the DOST has spearheaded
19 the following efforts which include, among others: (1) development and field
20 implementation of locally produced COVID-19 test kit, (2) use of mobile app in
21 providing information to the public regarding DOST’s and the entire scientific
22 community’s efforts against the pandemic, (3) production and distribution of face
23 shields, improvised Personal Protective Equipment, disinfecting solutions and food
24 packs, (4) enhancement of the Feasibility Analysis of Syndromic Surveillance using
25 Spatio-Temporal Epidemiological Modeler (FASSTER) which allows forecasting of
26 possible cases in a given area at a specified period of time and assists the Department
27 of Health, local government units, and healthcare facilities, in terms of resource
28 planning and other measures to mitigate the spread of the virus, (5) deployment of
29 RxBoxes in different hospitals across the country, and (6) development of 3D printed
30 ventilator and respirators;

31
32 WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 39, the Inter-Agency Task Force for the
33 Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) approved the recommendation
34 of the DOST for the country to participate in clinical trials for COVID-19 vaccines being
35 conducted by four foreign firms and institutions, and supports the DOST’s plan to
36 establish research centers for the development of local vaccine⁵;

37
38 WHEREAS, the Senate recognizes the importance of optimizing the use of
39 science and technology in responding to global health crisis, such as the current
40 COVID-19 pandemic, and in helping Filipinos survive the new realities that have been
41 brought about by COVID-19;

³ Ibid.

⁴ Department of Science and Technology, 20 in 2020, [dost.gov.ph](http://www.dost.gov.ph) (last visited May 27, 2020),
http://www.dost.gov.ph/phocadownload/Downloads/Resources/2020_technology_catalogue_03032020.pdf.

⁵ IATF Resolution No. 39, Series of 2020, May 22, 2020, Official Gazette (last visited May 27, 2020),
<https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/downloads/2020/05may/20200522-IATF-RESOLUTION-NO-39.pdf>.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Senate directs the appropriate
2 Senate committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the role of science
3 and technology in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, including the use of science and
4 technology in developing practical solutions that will help the country adapt to the
5 new normal.

Adopted,



MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY