Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH (18th) CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1898

Introduced by REP. JOSE CHRISTOPHER Y. BELMONTE

A RESOLUTION
CALLING THE PROPER COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, VARIOUS POTENTIAL SUPERSPREADER EVENTS IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

WHEREAS, Article II Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution provides that, “The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them”;

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization declared the Corona Virus Disease – 19 or COVID-19 as a pandemic on 11 March 2020 calling for urgent and aggressive action to detect, test, treat, isolate, trace, and mobilize people to prevent transmission and infection;

WHEREAS, as of 17 June 2021, the Department of Health has recorded over 1.3 million confirmed cases of COVID-19 with 23,276 deaths in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases, is mandated to prevent and minimize the local spread of COVID-19 with the help of national government agencies, local government units, non-government organizations, and the private sector;

WHEREAS, in light of several reports on the blatant violation of strict mass gathering restrictions, the Department of Interior and Local Government and the National Prosecution Service of the Department of Justice issued Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2021-058 on 31 May 2021 to intensify barangay efforts to regulate and prohibit the holding of activities as sources of virus transmission.
WHEREAS, a superspreader event is defined by the Department of Health as “events where the transmission of the virus is suddenly amplified, that is, a single person transmits the virus to a disproportionately large number of contacts”;¹

WHEREAS, superspreader events have occurred in both public and private spaces in various localities in the National Capital Region, to name a few:

- On 17 May 2021² at a vaccination site in Ayala Mall by the Bay, Parañaque City, issues on the vaccine schedule and crowd control resulted in the congestion of patients belonging to the A1 to A3 priority category;

- On 21 May 2021³ at Starmall San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan, lack of information regarding the appointments for the PhilSys National ID registration resulted in the overcrowding of around 4,000 individuals—only 1,600 of whom were scheduled to appear in the venue;

- Superspreader events occurred in Quezon City including the Community Pantry event organized by actress Angel Locsin in Barangay Holy Spirit on 23 April 2021⁴; and the Community Pantry Program organized by Barangay Old Balara on 25 May 2021⁵;

- At the evening of 11 June 2021 hundreds of commuters overcrowded the line for the EDSA bus carousel station in Ortigas⁶ and McKinley⁷ Exchange in EDSA Ayala due to the lack of public transport available;

WHEREAS, national agencies and respective LGUs have already responded to the abovementioned superspreader events with thorough contact-tracing operations and treatment protocols to prevent further transmission of the COVID-19 virus;

WHEREAS, there is a need to study (1) the situations that led to the overcrowding and the non-observance of health protocols, resulting to the increased or possible

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² https://mb.com.ph/2021/05/17/resident-cites-confusion-in-crowded-pfizer-vaccine-rollout-in-paranaque/?fbclid=IwAR0ppHP6jpyoYAZAKACnVwvKYKZYG4dy8wRqTnEFKR35b_7dp7eapiCNAXo
⁴ https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1138683
⁷ https://www.facebook.com/CommutersOfMetroManila/posts/5482202158521004
increase in transmission of COVID-19 in the communities, workplaces, and public spaces; and (2) the response mechanism of concerned national agencies and LGUs in the abovementioned potential superspreader events;

WHEREAS, the national government must synthesize and harmonize the policies and methods of LGUs in mitigating the effects of these potential superspreader events and prevent them from happening again;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the House of Representatives, to direct the proper Committee to investigate, in aid of legislation, various superspreader events in the National Capital Region.

Adopted,