

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Resolution No. 1925



Introduced by the Honorable Precious Hipolito Castelo

A RESOLUTION

URGING THE INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES (IATF-EID) AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH) TO ADOPT ALL THE NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS AGAINST THE SPREAD OF THE DELTA VARIANT OF CORONAVIRUS 2019 (COVID-19) IN THE COUNTRY

WHEREAS, as of June 27, 2021, the Philippines has recorded a total of 1,397,992 COVID-19 cases, with 52,570 active cases and 24,372 deaths¹;

WHEREAS, the positivity rate among tested individuals remains high at 12%, despite slightly decreasing the past few weeks²;

WHEREAS, in terms of vaccination, latest data show that 9,542,612 doses have been administered and 2,246,897 individuals have been fully vaccinated with two doses each, representing merely 2.1% of the country's population³;

WHEREAS, while it is truly commendable that the Philippine vaccination program has been pickup up the pace, administering an average of 242,031 vaccinations daily⁴, the emergence of new COVID-19 variants poses a threat in the objective of attaining herd immunity;

WHEREAS, the current surge in Indonesia has been particularly concerning where it was reported that a total of 358 medical workers who were fully vaccinated with Sinovac tested positive for COVID-19, with dozens hospitalized, according to Indonesian Doctors Association⁵;

WHEREAS, it is quite a relief that 90% of these doctors were either asymptomatic or had very mild illness, demonstrating the effectiveness of the vaccine in preventing severe disease and hospitalization;

WHEREAS, Indonesia has been logging more than 20,000 COVID-19 cases daily for the past few days, and this surge was said to be caused by the deadly Delta variant first found in India;

WHEREAS, a total of 17 Delta variant cases have been recorded in the Philippines, all from incoming international travelers;

¹ "COVID-19 Tracker," *Department of Health*, Accessed June 28, 2021, <https://doh.gov.ph/covid19tracker>

² *Id.*

³ "Our World in Data," *Google News*, Accessed June 28, 2021, <https://news.google.com/covid19/map?hl=fil&state=7&mid=%2Fm%2F05v8c>

⁴ "Daily Vaccination Rate (7-Day Moving Average)," *HerdImmunity.ph*, Accessed June 28, 2021, <https://herdimmunity.ph/>

⁵ "Indonesia's Doctors Got Vaccinated with Sinovac, and Got Sick," *The New York Times*, Accessed June 28, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/06/25/world/asia/indonesia-covid-sinovac.html>

WHEREAS, while there is still no local Delta case recorded in the country, it is safe to assume that this variant might soon cause more ruckus to public health if the necessary precautions are not heeded;

WHEREAS, this variant has spread to nearly 100 countries in the world, and is expected to become the dominant variant globally considering that it is around 60% more transmissible than Alpha, the variant first identified in the UK that was more contagious than the original strain that emerged from Wuhan, China in late 2019⁶;

WHEREAS, on June 23, 2021, India announced the emergence of the “Delta Plus” variant, a further mutation and a sub-lineage of the Delta which might make the variant even more transmissible⁷;

WHEREAS, to be successful against this Delta variant, all hands must be on deck in the implementation of policies against its spread;

WHEREAS, aggressive genome sequencing, mass testing, stricter border controls, localized lockdowns and other possible solutions must be studied and implemented accordingly;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives to urge the IATF-EID and the DOH to adopt all the necessary precautions against the spread of the Delta variant of COVID-19 in the country.

ADOPTED,


PRECIOUS HIPOLITO CASTELO

⁶ “Delta variant of coronavirus becoming globally dominant,” *The Straits Times*, Accessed June 28, 2021, <https://www.straitstimes.com/world/europe/delta-covid-19-variant-becoming-globally-dominant-who-official-says>

⁷ “Fauci Says Delta Variant is the Greatest Threat in Our Fight Against COVID-19. Why?,” *Live Science*, Accessed June 28, 2021, <https://www.livescience.com/delta-variant-delta-plus-variant-covid.html>