

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Resolution No. 2054



Introduced by the Honorable Precious Hipolito Castelo

A RESOLUTION

URGING THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE PREPARATIONS BEING MADE BY THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS FOR THE 2022 ELECTIONS CONSIDERING THE RISKS POSED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC TO THE ELECTORATE

WHEREAS, it cannot be denied that the election season is nearing, and the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) has been continuously laying out the groundwork for the 2022 elections albeit the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, it is delightful to hear that the COMELEC has reached its target of 4 million new voters with still a few months to go from the deadline of registration in September;

WHEREAS, it cannot be denied, however, that it is very probable that the threat of COVID-19 will still be present during the elections;

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

WHEREAS, last July 28, 2021, Senator Miguel Zubiri bared in his privilege speech a Pulse Asia survey which showed that 46% of the respondents would not go out to vote if COVID-19 cases will still be high by next year;

WHEREAS, it is thus important to establish systems in place to prevent the happening of super-spreader events in polling places;

WHEREAS, the truest sense of democracy lies on the people's right to suffrage, and this should not be taken lightly as many could be effectively disenfranchised because of fears of contracting the virus;

WHEREAS, the State must do everything to protect the people's right to suffrage and ensure that everyone will have the opportunity to exercise such right in a safe and secure manner;

WHEREAS, these upcoming elections will be vital for the future of the country considering the hits that the Philippines has taken from the pandemic;

WHEREAS, it is therefore imperative for the COMELEC to discuss its plans for the upcoming 2022 elections;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives to direct the Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, into the preparations being made by the COMELEC for the 2022 elections considering the risks posed by the COVID-19 pandemic to the electorate.

ADOPTED,


PRECIOUS HIPOLITO CASTELO