Republic of the Philippines

House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

18th CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Resolution No. **2140**

Introduced by Representative ELISA “OLGA” T. KHO, M.D., FPCCP

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A RESOLUTION

**STRONGLY URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THROUGH THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO INCREASE THE MUCH NEEDED FUNDING OF THE PHILIPPINE GENOME CENTER, AND ITS SATELLITE OFFICES IN VISAYAS, AND MINDANAO IN ITS CRUCIAL ROLE ON GENOME SEQUENCING TO DETECT THE THREAT OF EMERGING VARIANTS IN IDENTIFIED CORONA VIRUS DISEASE-2019 (COVID-19) CASES IN THE PHILIPPINES**

**WHEREAS,** genome sequencing is a group of technologies that give scientists the ability to obtain information of medical value for the prevention and treatment of human diseases;

**WHEREAS,** the global science community continues to recognize the potential benefits of genome sequencing in the field of medicine which includes treatment of a wide range of diseases, generating resilient crops, and detecting species in the environment;

**WHEREAS,** the Philippine Genomic Center (PGC), is a genomics-focused multidisciplinary research unit of the University of the Philippines (UP) System with the mission of acquiring a deeper understanding and judicious application of advanced knowledge and emerging technologies in genomics and bioinformatics in health and medicine, agriculture biodiversity,
forensics and ethnicity, industry and the environment for the benefit of Filipinos and the rest of humanity

WHEREAS, the PGC continues to play a crucial role in its tireless efforts and commitment in helping the national government’s strategies to address the COVID-19 pandemic concerns;

WHEREAS, the breakthroughs of these indefatigable efforts of the PGC have resulted in the Real Time-Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) testing and the skills training for technologists to operate molecular laboratories, and, in joint collaboration with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-UP-National Institutes of Health (NIH) steered the timely approval by the Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) of the Manila Health Tek, Inc. RT-PCR Diagnostic Kit for COVID-19;

WHEREAS, citing a news report that “according to the Department of Health (DOH), the B.1.1.7 lineage SARS-CoV-2 variant (first detected in the United Kingdom) was detected through the PGC genome sequencing from a Filipino who arrived last January 7, 2021 from Dubai; *

WHEREAS, with confirmed six hundred and twenty-seven (627) cases *** of the more transmissible SARS-CoV-2 Delta variant (first detected in India) detected in the country, the PGC has sounded off its appeal to the national government to seek immediate funds for expanded capacity to detect the rising variant cases, specifically identifying immediate funding for its satellite offices in Visayas, and Mindanao necessitating P50 Million each; **

WHEREAS, it is also, lamentable to view the post of this important center and its team of hardworking scientists and staff on its website asking for donations of disposable lab gowns, biohazard disposal bags, N95 masks and other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as well as emergency response equipment such as wheelchairs, stretchers, and automated external defibrillator if only to continuously facilitate their 24/7 operations for COVID-19 testing;

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the House Committee on Science and Technology, to review and assess the current situation of the PGC in Quezon City, in Visayas and Mindanao in the fight against the deadly SARS-CoV-2, to seek the strong support of the House Leadership for the much-needed and immediate appropriations to expand its bio-surveillance capacities to detect the variants identified in covid-positive patients, and aid local hospitals and communities in COVID-19 prevention and control.

Adopted

[Signature]

REP. ELISA “OLGA” T. KHO, M.D. FPCCP