Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH (18TH) CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Res. No. 2198


RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS WORKERS AFFAIRS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY INTO THE BUREAU OF QUARANTINE’S CONTRACT WITH PISOPAY FOR THE ISSUANCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL VACCINE CERTIFICATE AS PROOF OF VACCINATION AGAINST COVID-19

WHEREAS, on March 2021, the Philippines began vaccinating qualified individuals against COVID-19;

WHEREAS, under Section 12 of Republic Act No. 11525, also known as COVID-19 Vaccination Program of 2021, the DOH was tasked to issue vaccination cards to all person vaccinated against COVID-19. In order to expedite the vaccination process, the DOH was authorized to delegate the issuance and processing of vaccination cards to local government units (LGUs) and private entities

WHEREAS, the delegation of the authority to issue and process vaccine cards to the LGUs has resulted in the lack of uniformity in the appearance and contents of the vaccination cards;

WHEREAS, under the penultimate paragraph of Section 12 of the same law, the issuance, amendment, or replacement of the vaccine card shall be free of charge;

WHEREAS, this lack of uniformity in the vaccination cards was reported as the reason for other countries’ refusal to recognize vaccine cards from the Philippines as proof of vaccination, thereby adding another obstacle to the return to work of our Overseas Foreign Workers (OFWs);
WHEREAS, the Bureau of Quarantine was tasked with issuing the international vaccine certification (ICV) or yellow card for as proof of vaccination against COVID-19 which some countries would accept as proof of vaccination;

WHEREAS, it appears that in order to obtain the ICV, our citizens need to book an appointment through the Bureau of Quarantine website, and pay Three Hundred Pesos (Php300.00) for the issuance of the said certificate plus a convenience fee of Seventy Pesos (Php70.00), thereby adding to the financial burden of OFWs wishing to return to their work abroad;

WHEREAS, it appears that the Bureau of Quarantine partnered with a FinTech company called PisoPay to receive the payment for the issuance of the ICV, a company incorporated in 2017, with BSP license to act as a remittance agent issued in 2019, and not wholly owned by Filipinos;

WHEREAS, there is a need for more transparency and more government information as to the Bureau of Quarantine’s charging for the issuance of the ICV in view of existing laws on the matter;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to direct the House Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs to conduct an inquiry into the Bureau of Quarantine’s contract with PisoPay for the issuance of the international vaccine certificate as well as the fees being charged for the issuance of said international vaccine certificate.

SHARON S. GARIN  
Party List, AAMBIS-OWA

HON. JESUS “BONG” C. SUNTAY  
4th District, Quezon City

ESTRELLITA B. SUANSING  
1st District, Nueva Ecija

FRANCISCO “KIKO” B. BENÍTEZ  
3rd District, Negros Occidental

JUAN MIGUEL MACAPAGAL ARROYO  
2nd District, Pampanga

MICHAEL B. GORRICETA  
2nd District, Iloilo
RIA CHRISTINA G. FARÍÑAS  
1st District, Ilocos Norte

ALFRED C. DELOS SANTOS  
Party List, ANG PROBINSYANO

MOHAMAD KHALID Q. DIMAPORO  
1st District, Lanao del Norte

AMIHIlda J. SANGCOPAN  
Party List, AMIN

FRANZ “CHICOY” E. ÁLVAREZ  
1st District, Palawan

CRISTAL L. BAGATSING  
5th District, Manila

FERDINAND L. HERNANDEZ  
2nd District, South Cotabato

JULIENNE “JAM” L. BARONDA  
Lone District, Iloilo City

EDWARD VERÁ PEREZ MACEDA  
4th District, Manila

EDGAR MARY S. SARMIENTO  
1st District, Samar

STELLA LUZ A. QUIMBO  
2nd District, Marikina City

DEOGRAcIAS “VICTOR “DV” SAVELLANO  
1st District, Ilocos Sur
ANGELICA NATASHA CO
Party list, BHW

WESLIE GATCHALIAN
1st District, Valenzuela

CLAUDINE DIANA D. BAUTISTA
Party List, DUMPER PTDA

CONRADO M. ESTRELLA III
Party List, ABONO

JOSE GAY G. PADIERNOS
Party List, GP

KRISTINE SINGSON-MEEHAN
2nd District, Ilocos Sur

ROSSANA "RIA" V. VERGARA
3rd District, Nueva Ecija

FLORIDA "RIDA" P. ROBES
Lone District, San Jose Del Monte City

SANDRA Y. ERIGUEL
2nd District, La Union

ERICO ARISTOTLE C. AUGMENTADO
2nd District, Bohol

JOEY SARTE SALCEDA
2nd District, Albay

JOHN REYNALD M. TIANGCO
Lone District, Navotas City

ANTONIO "TONYPET" T. ALBANO
1st District, Isabella

LUISA LOREN CUARESMA
Lone District, Nueva Vizcaya