A RESOLUTION
URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THROUGH THE
APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF
LEGISLATION, ON THE INCIDENT OF FIRE THAT RAZED THE BLUE
BUILDING OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR MEDICAL CENTER AND
DESTROYED OVER 148,000 COVID-19 VACCINES

WHEREAS, on 11:40pm of 31 October 2021 a fire broke out at the
Integrated Provincial Health Office of the Province of Zamboanga del Sur
which started at the maintenance department of the Zamboanga del Sur
Medical Center.¹

WHEREAS, the Blue Building of the Zamboanga del Sur Medical Center
which was destroyed by fire serves as the provincial cold chain storage
facility of nearly 150,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines. Likewise, the building
houses the provincial offices of the Department of Health, Red Cross and the
Integrated Provincial Health Office of Zamboanga del Sur.²

WHEREAS, the nearly 150,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines stored in
the Blue Building which were damaged in the fire consist of: 88,938 doses of
Pfizer; 36,164 doses of Sinovac, 14,400 doses of Moderna, and 9,176 doses
of Astrazeneca.³

WHEREAS, aside from COVID-19 vaccines, an unspecified number of
other routine immunization vaccines against hepatitis, measles and polio
allocated for the Province of Zamboanga del Sur were also damaged by the
fire.⁴

WHEREAS, Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)
Secretary and National Task Force Against COVID-19 (NTF) Vice Chairman
Eduardo M. Año discovered lapses in vaccine distribution in the Province of

¹ https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1158488 (date last visited: 6 November 2021)
destructs-doses
³ https://ptvnews.ph/jointt-statement-on-zamboanga-del-sur-integrated-provincial-health-office-fire-incident/ (date
last visited: 7 November 2021)
⁴ https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1509676/nearly-150k-vaccine-doses-destroyed-in-pagadian-fire
Zamboanga del Sur after more than 100,000 doses were destroyed when a fire hit the Blue Building of the Zamboanga del Sur Medical Center.\(^5\)

**WHEREAS**, the Bureau of Fire Protection estimated the damage to the properties in the amount of P1.5 million\(^6\) and the total cost of the destroyed vaccines is yet to be determined.

**WHEREAS**, vaccines as lifesavers are gold. Its swift roll-out and deployment in this time of pandemic is crucial. Safeguarding these is a primordial concern in all levels of the government.

**WHEREAS**, there is a necessity to conduct an in-depth inquiry to extract the truth and exact accountability from our public officials for their misfeasance, malfeasance or nonfeasance, considering the magnitude of this incident, in the hope of eliminating surmises and finger pointing.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the House of Representatives, through the appropriate committee, to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the incident of fire that razed the Blue Building of Zamboanga del Sur Medical Center and destroyed over 148,000 COVID-19 vaccines.

ADOPTED,

LEONARDO D. BABASA, JR.
Representative
2\(^{nd}\) District, Zamboanga del Sur

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\(^6\) https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1158488 (date last visited: 7 November 2021)