Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila
EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 694

Introduced by Representative Manuel Luis T. Lopez

A RESOLUTION

STRONGLY URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND OTHER APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO ESTABLISH CABALLO ISLAND AS A PERMANENT QUARANTINE AREA FOR NOVEL CORONAVIRUS ACUTE RESPIRATORY DISEASE (nCoV ARD) AND OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND FOR THE APPROPRIATE HOUSE COMMITTEE TO MAKE A DETAILED REVIEW OF ITS VIABILITY AND FEASIBILITY

WHEREAS, Article II Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution provides that “[T]he State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them;”

WHEREAS, Section 2 of Executive Order No. 292 series of 1987 Instituting the Administrative Code of 1987 and signed on July 25, 1987 states that it is the mandate of the Department of Health to be “ ... primarily responsible for the formulation, planning, implementation, and coordination of policies and programs in the field of health. The primary function of the Department is the promotion, protection, preservation or restoration of the health of the people through the provision and delivery of health services and through the regulation and encouragement of providers of health goods and services;”

WHEREAS, Novel Coronavirus Acute Respiratory Disease (nCoV ARD) is of pandemic proportions with its presence not only in the Philippines but also globally and currently affecting more than 20,438 individuals according to the World Health Organization;

WHEREAS, the country has previously been affected by Ebola Virus and other diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome-related coronavirus (MERS), Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome-related coronavirus (SARS) at different times of our country’s history;

WHEREAS, with the repeated attacks of these respiratory diseases of unknown origins which are greatly affecting the health of the Filipinos, there is an imperative need to continuously take a proactive stance in stemming the fast-spread of these diseases through isolation and quarantine of individuals who are suspected carriers of these diseases;

WHEREAS, there is a further need to dedicate an area for isolation and quarantine of these individuals suspected to have the symptoms of viruses and provide the necessary logistical related needs;
WHEREAS, the Caballo Islands has in 2014 been previously used by Filipino peacekeepers from Liberia as a quarantine area for 21 days due to concerns about the Ebola virus;

WHEREAS, the Caballo Islands which is located off Manila Bay and beside the Corregidor Islands, and currently occupied as a military facility, is an ideal isolation and quarantine area both for its capability to house a big number of patients with its large area of at least 20 hectares and for its accessibility to Metro Manila which has the best doctors and knowledge available;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Philippines, to direct the Department of Health and other appropriate government agencies to establish the Caballo Islands as a permanent area for isolation and quarantine of individuals suspected to have the symptoms of the dreaded viruses, and for the appropriate House Committees to conduct a detailed review of its operational viability and feasibility in the long term.

Adopted,

HON. MANUEL LUIS T. LOPEZ
Representative
1st District, City of Manila