Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1077

Introduced by HON. LUIS RAYMUND “LRAY” F. VILLAFUERTE, JR., HON. ABRAHAM “BAMBOL” N. TOLENTINO and HON. ERIC GO YAP

RESOLUTION
CALLING ON THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOOD GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC ACCOUNTS TO INVESTIGATE, REVIEW, AND ASSESS, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE CLUTTER AND DISARRAY ON THE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED FOR THE LOCALLY STRANDED INDIVIDUALS, INCLUDING THE FACILITATION OF TRANSPORT SERVICES TO MEDICAL SERVICES

WHEREAS, due to the quick escalation in the number of local transmission of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), on 16 March 2020, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte issued Proclamation No. 929, declaring a state of calamity throughout the Philippines due to COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the government recognizes the massive effect of the community lockdowns and travel restrictions, not only to the local workers who were displaced, but also includes the students, local or foreign tourists, other individuals stranded in various localities in transit, even those families who decided to relocate or return home to the province for good;

WHEREAS, in response to the call of the President to address different challenges that the nation is facing, specifically the predicament on these locally stranded individuals (LSIs), Memorandum No. 2020-02 of the National Task Force Against COVID-19 was issued and signed by Defense Secretary;

WHEREAS, the memorandum intends to provide guidelines following a systemic and coordinated approach in facilitating and transporting locally stranded individuals to their respective residences;

WHEREAS, the memorandum mentions certain national departments that shall have duties and responsibilities in bringing the LSIs back home;

WHEREAS, among others, the Department of Tourism shall provide chartered and sweeper flights for tourists considered as LSIs; the Department of Transportation shall ensure availability of transportation services to facilitate conveying LSIs to their homes; Department of Interior and Local Government shall ensure that the local government units are following the guidelines and assisting the national agencies; Department of Social Welfare and Development shall give any form of assistance which shall include but not be limited to food assistance to LSIs;
WHEREAS, the Department of Labor and Employment, although not specially mentioned therein, shall play a vital role in providing details of the local workers who lost their jobs and living during this pandemic;

WHEREAS, according to the guidelines provided for, an eligible LSI in order to be accommodated must undergo medical protocols supervised by Department of Health and must go through rapid testing for coronavirus;

WHEREAS, in order to concentrate on this particular initiative, the “HATID TULONG PROGRAM” was launched on 2020 July 4 benefitting around three thousand five hundred seventy (3,570) LSIs bound for Mindanao and nearly two thousand (2,000) LSIs bound for Luzon and other islands in Visayas;

WHEREAS, the government aimed to implement second “Hatid Tulong Program” and was set to bring home another batch of LSIs to their respective home provinces last 2020 July 25 and 26;

WHEREAS, the LSIs are being gathered at the baseball stadium of the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex;

WHEREAS, during the second implementation of the said program, unforeseen huge number of LSIs who herded to the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex led to violations of the physical distancing rule for preventing the spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the lead convenor of “Hatid Tulong Program” admittedly said that there was no way their Technical Working Group had anticipated the numerous people who insisted on waiting for the trips to the province;

WHEREAS, as there was public criticism on the violations of health and proper safety protocols while the LSIs gather for Hatid Tulong Program, reports have shown that those violations have caused eight to nine (8-9) stranded individuals to have tested positive for COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the involved agencies must then provide quarantine procedures not only to those who have tested positive but must include those who had close contact with them after the rapid testing;

WHEREAS, the supposed explication to the problem on transporting LSIs produced more complicated problems such as spread of the virus during their assembly, consequently the need to produce quarantine facilities for those that have tested positive after the organizers have committed breach of health and safety measures;

WHEREAS, there has been a failure in application of the medical and safety health protocols during the implementation of “Hatid Tulong Program” since based on data, there are returned individuals that were tested positive for the virus upon arrival in various LGUs;

WHEREAS, following that, there has been suspension in the entry of stranded individuals to several areas, resulting to a worse and unbearable situation for them;

WHEREAS, the members of the House urge the national agencies assigned with duties and responsibilities to implement this initiative to create an orderly system in assisting the LSIs, starting from determination of actual number of LSIs in
need of assistance, proper information of how the government manages the situation, most importantly the strict imposition of health and safety protocols;

WHEREAS, the aforementioned concerns and issues run counter to the wisdom of the President to expedite and effectively assist all citizens directly and indirectly affected by this pandemic;

BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives, through the House Committee on Good Government and Public Accounts shall investigate, review and assess, in aid of legislation, the clutter and disarray on the assistance provided for the locally stranded individuals, including the facilitation of transport services to medical services.

Adopted.

LUIS RAYMUND "LEY" F. VILLAGUERTE JR.

ABRAHAM "BAMBOL" N. TOLENTINO

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