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Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 1166



Introduced by
BAYAN MUNA Representatives FERDINAND R. GAITE,
CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE and EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT

A RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THROUGH THE
COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION AND
THE DEFEAT COVID-19 AD-HOC COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALARMING SURGE OF COVID-19
INFECTIONS AMONG GOVERNMENT WORKERS

WHEREAS, government employees comprise roughly four percent (4%) of the country's labor force or a total of 1,728,641¹ workers nationwide. Of this figure, a substantial number serve in the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic, tirelessly providing the basic needs of their respective beneficiaries and communities even amid the lockdowns;

WHEREAS, on August 5, 2020, the Commission on Civil Service (CSC) reported some 10,344 government employees having tested positive for COVID-19 with majority of cases found in the National Capital Region (7,472), followed by Central Visayas (1,226), Calabarzon (404) and Central Luzon (290). In addition, the CSC data also showed 676 COVID-19 positive patients among Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) employees who are at the frontlines of repatriation efforts for sea-based migrants in the past months since the pandemic²;

WHEREAS, on the same day, CSC reported more than 14,696 suspected cases of COVID-19 among government employees. The rise of infections among government offices has resulted in the lockdown of more than 153 government offices as of August 5, 2020, with 108 offices closed in NCR, followed by 16 offices closed in Calabarzon, and 11 offices closed in Central Visayas³;

WHEREAS, on August 14, 2020, no more than a week from the first announcement, Civil Service Commissioner Aileen Lizada reported that the number of government employees who tested positive for COVID-19 had breached the 18,000 mark;

WHEREAS, data from the CSC shows that Metro Manila, the epicenter of the outbreak in the country, recorded the highest number of confirmed cases among government workers, with at least 13,430 cases followed by Central Visayas with 2,394, and Calabarzon with 780. Another 10,036 employees are likewise suspected of having COVID-19 in the NCR, 3,929 suspected cases

¹ <http://web.csc.gov.ph/2014-02-21-08-28-23/pdf-files/category/1668-ighrs2019.html>

² <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1111263>

³ <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1321662/covid-19-strikes-over-18k-govt-workers-almost-18k-more-are-suspects>

1 in Central Visayas, and 19,83 suspected cases in Calabarzon;

2
3 **WHEREAS**, this translates to a staggering 75 percent increase in the number of infected
4 government employees within a 9-day period.. The number of positive PCG employees also grew
5 by 19.6% from 676 in August 5 to 797 in August 14 based on latest CSC reports;

6
7 **WHEREAS**, CSC data also showed that more than 205 government agencies and offices are
8 currently on lockdown as of August 14 resulting in serious disruptions in the delivery of state
9 support and services to areas most in need;

10
11 **WHEREAS**, the CSC data on the number of COVID-19 positive government employees as of
12 August 14, 2020 are as follows:

Region/Government Agencies	No. of COVID-19 Positive Government Employees
NCR (National Capital Region)	13,430
Region I	22
Region II	24
Region III	290
Region IV	780
Region V	67
Region VI	57
Region VII	2,570
Region VIII	3
Region IX	77
Region X	38
Region XI	55
Region XII	2
Region XIII	17
CAR (Cordillera Administrative Region)	40
BARMM (Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao)	9
Philippine Coast Guard	829
TOTAL	18,310

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16 **WHEREAS**, Santiago Dasmarinas, president of the Confederation for Unity, Recognition, and
17 Advancement of Government Employees (COURAGE) had earlier called on the national
18 government to institute counter-measures to ensure the safety of government workers to prevent
19 the disruption of service delivery to communities especially during the time of the pandemic⁴;

20
21 **WHEREAS**, existing memoranda issued by the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infections
22 Diseases (IATF-EID) do not provide relevant protocols needed to guide government agencies,
23 branches and its offices in cases of COVID-19 infections in the workplace including guidelines on
24 office lockdowns and mass testing among government frontliners;

25
26 **WHEREAS**, government employees, much like our health workers, are also frontliners in the
27 pandemic as they fulfill critical duties in providing continuing delivery of essential government
28 support and services to communities and areas most in need which therefore necessitates

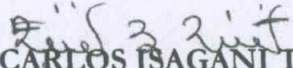
⁴ <https://www.pinoyweekly.org/2020/08/tama-ng-pandemya-sa-kawani/>

1 corresponding safeguards to protect them from COVID-19;

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3 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the House of Representatives through the
4 Committee on Civil Service and Professional Regulation and the Defeat Covid-19 AdHoc
5 Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the alarming surge of COVID-19
6 infections among government workers.
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9 *Adopted,*

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15 **REP. FERDINAND R. GAITE**
16 *Bayan Muna Partylist*

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22 **REP. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE**
Bayan Muna Partylist


REP. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT
Bayan Muna Partylist