URGING THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY TO POSTPONE THE 2020 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING (CPH) TO JANUARY 2021 DUE TO THE ONGOING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

WHEREAS, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) is tasked with conducting the 2020 Census of Population and Housing (CPH) which was originally scheduled for last May but was postponed due to lockdowns and community quarantines all over the country;

WHEREAS, the PSA has decided to conduct the 2020 CPH and has already hired 113,364 data enumerators, as well as over 22,000 supervisors to visit homes;

WHEREAS, the PSA has also given the assurance that data enumerators have been trained to follow strict health protocols and are required to wear masks, face shields, and to keep a safe distance when interviewing residents for an estimated 15-30 minutes;

WHEREAS, despite these assurances, there are still risks not only for the residents but also for interviewers and data enumerators;

WHEREAS, there will be face to face interviews and the possibility of infection is still there;

WHEREAS, while it is true that the results of the census will guide development planning at the national and local level and will be particularly useful in coming up with policies for reducing poverty, it is not really the most appropriate time right now to conduct the census;

WHEREAS, the country still hasn’t flattened the curve and we are still getting daily positive cases in the thousands;

WHEREAS, it is also inappropriate for the PSA to come out in the media and say that refusal to participate in the census bears the punishment of one-year imprisonment and fine of Php 100,000 which some could see as a threat in order for them to participate despite the ongoing pandemic;

WHEREAS, what we need now is, as far as practicable, less people on the streets and outside their homes in order to help contain the spread of COVID-19;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives to urge the Philippine Statistics Authority to postpone the 2020 census of population and housing (CPH) to January 2021 due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Adopted,

RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ