



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2157

Introduced by CIBAC Party-List Representatives
**EDUARDO "BRO. EDDIE" C. VILLANUEVA and DOMINGO C.
RIVERA**

**RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
URGING THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN AND THE
COMMISSION ON AUDIT TO FORM AND COMMISSION A
COMPOSITE TEAM WHICH WILL FACILITATE AND EXPEDITE THE
RESOLUTION OF ISSUES AND QUESTIONS ARISING FROM THE
AUDIT REPORTS MADE ON REPORTED MISMANAGEMENT OF
COVID-19 FUNDS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AS WELL AS
OTHER AGENCIES**

WHEREAS, Section 13 of the 1987 Constitution as well as Republic Act 6770, otherwise known as *The Ombudsman Act of 1989*, vest to the Office of the Ombudsman plenary powers with the mandate of curbing corruption, which includes among others the following:

- (a) investigate on its own any act or omission of any public official, employee, office, or agency, when such act or omission appears to be illegal, unjust, improper, or inefficient,

- (b) direct, upon complaint or at its own instance, any public official or employee of the Government to perform and expedite any act or duty required by law, or to stop, prevent, and correct any abuse or impropriety in the performance of duties,
- (c) direct the officer concerned, in any appropriate case, and subject to such limitations as may be provided by law, to furnish it with copies of documents relating to contracts or transactions entered into by his office involving the disbursement or use of public funds or properties, and report any irregularity to the Commission on Audit for appropriate action, and
- (d) direct the officer concerned to take appropriate action against a public official or employee at fault, and recommend his removal, suspension, demotion, fine, censure, or prosecution, and ensure compliance therewith;

WHEREAS, Section 13 of the 1987 Constitution vests the Commission on Audit (COA), as the country's supreme audit institution, the power and duty to examine, audit, and settle all accounts pertaining to the revenue and receipts of, and expenditures or uses of funds and property, owned or held in trust by, or pertaining to, the government;

WHEREAS, the COA 2009 Revised Rules of Procedures also empowers the COA to require the submission of papers relative to government obligations as well as to issue subpoena and subpoena duces tecum;

WHEREAS, Republic Act 11494 or the Bayanihan to Recover As One Act (Bayanihan 2) was enacted on September 11, 2020, to provide for the COVID-19 pandemic response and recovery interventions of the government to mitigate the adverse impacts brought by the pandemic and its quarantine restrictions;

WHEREAS, Bayanihan 2 law appropriated the amount of one hundred sixty-five billion pesos (Php 165,000,000.00) for the procurement of vaccines, COVID-19 facilities, hiring of health workers, and for provision

of assistance, subsidies, and other forms of socio-economic relief to cushion the impact of the pandemic;

WHEREAS, on August 11, 2021, COA released its 2020 annual audit report (AAR) of the Department of Health (DOH) covering its financial transactions ending as of December 31, 2020;

WHEREAS, the said AAR on DOH points out deficiencies in the management of pandemic funds amounting to a total of Php67,323,186,570.57, which include the following, among others:

- Php 42.41 billion – Fund transfer to procurement/implementing agencies sans the required memorandum of agreement and other supporting documents;
- Php 11.89 billion – unobligated allotments, which include the provision of special risk allowance and hazard duty pay
- Php 3.42 billion – unfinished implementation of foreign-assisted projects
- Php 5.03 billion – procedural deficiencies in the procurement process and lack of documentation in various contracts
- Php 74 million – unutilized medical equipment and supplies
- Php 98.40 million – cash advances non-compliant with existing regulations
- Php 4.88 million – unpaid financial assistance to private and public health workers
- Php 814 million – Payment of various allowances without proper and complete documentary support
- Php 275 million – payment of various allowances and benefits not consistent with the Bayanihan 2 law
- Php 734 million – Deficiencies in the management of Interim Reimbursement Mechanism (IRM) of PhilHealth;

WHEREAS, as of this writing, the COA has also released its AARs for a number of agencies, also noting issues of deficiencies in the utilization of COVID-19 funds;

WHEREAS, the aforementioned findings on the management of public funds – especially of the COVID-19 response funds – which are undeniably astronomical in proportions, lead to serious allegations of

corruption and fund wastage which ultimately breed widespread skepticism and distrust towards the entire government;

WHEREAS, the Ombudsman and the COA being independent bodies, possess the powers, qualification, and technical expertise to dig to the bottom of things and conduct an in-depth and fair fact-finding investigation which have real value and materiality as far as the purpose of accountability and prosecution of corruption is concerned;

WHEREAS, the fact-finding investigation that can be launched by a composite team organized by the Ombudsman and COA will undoubtedly facilitate and expedite the resolution of the issues and questions arising from the aforementioned COA AARs,

WHEREAS, the fair and speedy resolution of mismanagement issues and alleged corruption of COVID-19 funds is very critical in averting the erosion of public trust and confidence towards the government;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, that the House of Representatives urge and prod the Office of the Ombudsman and the Commission on Audit to form and commission a composite team which will facilitate and expedite the speedy resolution of issues and questions arising from the audit reports made on reported mismanagement of Covid-19 funds of the Department of Health as well as other agencies

Adopted,


HON. EDUARDO "BRO. EDDIE" C. VILLANUEVA


HON. DOMINGO C. RIVERA