

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH (18TH) CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Res. No. 2198



Introduced by Representatives Sharon S. Garin, Jesus “Bong” C. Suntay, Estrellita B. Suansing, Francisco “Kiko” B. Benitez, Juan Miguel Macapagal Arroyo, Michael B. Gorriceta, Ria Christina G. Fariñas, Alfred C. Delos Santos, Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo, Amihilda J. Sangcopan, Franz “Chicoy” E. Alvarez, Cristal L. Bagatsing, Ferdinand L. Hernandez, Julienne “Jam” L. Baronda, Edgar Mary S. Sarmiento, Stella Luz A. Quimbo, Deogracias Victor “DV” Savellano, Angelica Natasia Co, Weslie Gatchalian, Claudine Diana D. Bautista, Conrado M. Estrella III, Jose Gay G. Padiernos, Kristine Singson Meehan, Rosana “Ria” V. Vergara, Florida “Rida” P. Robes, Sandra Y. Eriguel, Erico Aristotle C. Aumentado, Joey Sarte Salceda, John Reynald M. Tiangco, Antonio “TONYPET” T. Albano, Luisa Loren Cuaresma and Edward Vera Perez Maceda

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS WORKERS AFFAIRS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY INTO THE BUREAU OF QUARANTINE’S CONTRACT WITH PISOPAY FOR THE ISSUANCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL VACCINE CERTIFICATE AS PROOF OF VACCINATION AGAINST COVID-19

WHEREAS, on March 2021, the Philippines began vaccinating qualified individuals against COVID-19;

WHEREAS, under Section 12 of Republic Act No. 11525, also known as COVID-19 Vaccination Program of 2021, the DOH was tasked to issue vaccination cards to all person vaccinated against COVID-19. In order to expedite the vaccination process, the DOH was authorized to delegate the issuance and processing of vaccination cards to local government units (LGUs) and private entities

WHEREAS, the delegation of the authority to issue and process vaccine cards to the LGUs has resulted in the lack of uniformity in the appearance and contents of the vaccination cards;

WHEREAS, under the penultimate paragraph of Section 12 of the same law, the issuance, amendment, or replacement of the vaccine card shall be free of charge;

WHEREAS, this lack of uniformity in the vaccination cards was reported as the reason for other countries’ refusal to recognize vaccine cards from the Philippines as proof of vaccination, thereby adding another obstacle to the return to work of our Overseas Foreign Workers (OFWs);

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Quarantine was tasked with issuing the international vaccine certification (ICV) or yellow card for as proof of vaccination against COVID-19 which some countries would accept as proof of vaccination;

WHEREAS, it appears that in order to obtain the ICV, our citizens need to book an appointment through the Bureau of Quarantine website, and pay Three Hundred Pesos (Php300.00) for the issuance of the said certificate plus a convenience fee of Seventy Pesos (Php70.00), thereby adding to the financial burden of OFWs wishing to return to their work abroad;


WHEREAS, it appears that the Bureau of Quarantine partnered with a FinTech company called PisoPay to receive the payment for the issuance of the ICV, a company incorporated in 2017, with BSP license to act as a remittance agent issued in 2019, and not wholly owned by Filipinos;

WHEREAS, there is a need for more transparency and more government information as to the the Bureau of Quarantine's charging for the issuance of the ICV in view of existing laws on the matter;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to direct the House Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs to conduct an inquiry into the Bureau of Quarantine's contract with PisoPay for the issuance of the international vaccine certificate as well as the fees being charged for the issuance of said international vaccine certificate.



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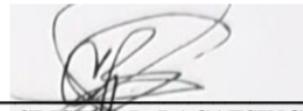
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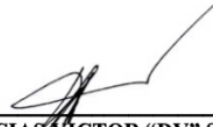
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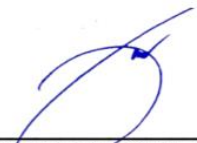
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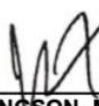
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