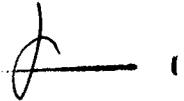




EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE]
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES]
First Regular Session]

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SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 345

Introduced by SEN. WIN GATCHALIAN

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF
THE NOVEL CORONA VIRUS OUTBREAK WITH THE END VIEW OF
STRENGTHENING MACROECONOMIC FUNDAMENTALS AND
PROPOSING ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGES SUPPORTED BY
APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION

1 **WHEREAS**, Article II of the 1987 Constitution lays down as a policy the
2 development of a self-reliant and independent national economy, the provision of
3 support to needed investments, the protection and promotion of general welfare,
4 the worker’s rights, and the people’s right to health, and the inculcation of health
5 consciousness;

6 **WHEREAS**, as of March 3, 2020, the World Health Organization reported
7 90,870 confirmed cases of the Novel Corona Virus (Covid-19 virus) globally with
8 80,304 confirmed cases in China and 10,566 confirmed cases outside of China.
9 Of these confirmed cases, there are 3,112 total deaths;¹

10 **WHEREAS**, last January 31, 2020, the Philippine economic managers held
11 a press briefing discounting the possible effect of Covid-19 virus on the Philippine
12 economy and assuring the public that the Covid-19 virus scare would have a
13 minimal impact on Philippine growth;²

¹ World Health Organization, Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-10) Situation Report – 43, March 3, 2020,
https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200303-sitrep-43-covid-19.pdf?sfvrsn=2c21c09c_2

² <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1092506>;

1 **WHEREAS**, despite the decreasing number of reported cases from China,
2 cases reported from countries, previously thought to be resilient to the outbreak
3 due to stronger medical standards and practices, have recently increased;³

4 **WHEREAS**, the dispersion of the Covid-19 virus across China to Europe,
5 the Middle East and the United States has caused a brutal drawdown in global
6 financial markets last week thereby stoking fears of a global pandemic and
7 appearing to indicate a path to global recession;⁴

8 **WHEREAS**, the ongoing Covid-19 virus impact is expected to subdue
9 growth of the global economy in 2020 as it has slowed down factory production
10 inside and outside of China, hitting hard the transportation and tourism sectors;

11 **WHEREAS**, several countries have already announced and/or released
12 their respective 2020 economic stimulus package tackling measures to mitigate
13 the impact of Covid-19 virus, encourage domestic economic growth and promote
14 quality investments;

15 **WHEREAS**, Singapore's stimulus package totaled SGD6.4 billion
16 (~USD4.6 billion) with only 5.6 million population, while Japan announced to be
17 tapping its JPY270 billion (~USD2.5 billion) in budget reserves with some 120
18 million population. On one hand, Indonesia unveiled a package around IR10.5
19 thousand (~USD742 million) while Malaysia has set-aside RM20 billion (USD4.8
20 billion) package. South Korea has unveiled an extra budget of W11.7 thousand
21 (~USD9.9 billion) to help fight the virus and mitigate the economic fallout;⁵

22 **WHEREAS**, the Philippine government has been taking steps to control the
23 spread of the Covid-19 virus, including travel restrictions, closure of schools,
24 colleges and training schools;

25 **WHEREAS**, compared to the stimulus packages announced by other
26 countries, the Philippines has yet to announce its economic stimulus package;

27 **WHEREAS**, with around 9.073 million tourists forecasted to arrive in the
28 Philippines in 2020, the travel restrictions on China and its territories (Hong
29 Kong and Macau), Taiwan and North Gyeongsang Province, South Korea due to
30 the Covid-19 virus outbreak are estimated to push down tourist arrivals in the

³ McKibbin, Warwick and Fernando, Roshen, The Global Macroeconomic Impacts of COVID-10: Seven Scenarios, March 2, 2020.

⁴ <https://hbr.org/2020/03/what-coronavirus-could-mean-for-the-global-economy>

⁵ https://www.ey.com/en_my/news/2020/02/the-2020-economic-stimulus-package-tackling-the-impact-of-covid-19; <https://crofsblogs.typepad.com/h5n1/2020/03/south-koreas-virus-cases-top-5300-98-bln-stimulus-package-unveiled-to-battle-virus.html>; <https://japantoday.com/category/national/japan-to-announce-more-measures-on-march-10-to-counter-virus-pm-abe>

1 Philippines in 2020 to 7.201 million. Continued travel ban for the entire year will
2 forego economic activities and seasonal employment opportunities in the tourism
3 sector, the transportation sector, food and beverage sector, travel agencies,
4 entertainment and recreation sector, shopping activities and other miscellaneous
5 activities;

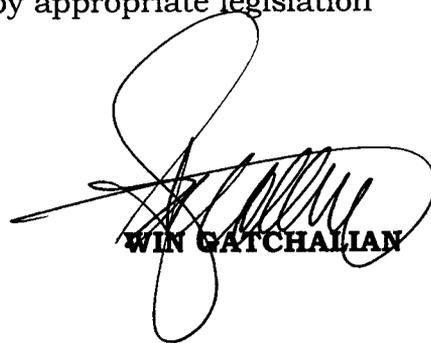
6 **WHEREAS**, there is a need to ensure that all efforts being done by the
7 national government and the local government units in planning, formulating
8 programs and responding to the Covid-19 virus outbreak are sufficient and
9 sustainable to guarantee the welfare and safety of the lives of the Filipino people;

10 **WHEREAS**, the national government, thru the economic managers, should
11 immediately make an assessment of the exposure to and risks accompanying the
12 Covid-19 virus outbreak to the economic performance of the Philippines, and
13 should timely and proactively present economic stimulus measures that would
14 provide much-needed boost to the economy in these challenging times;

15 **WHEREAS**, it is incumbent upon the Senate, in the exercise of its power,
16 to ensure that public funds are properly appropriated on timely and needed
17 measures that would boost local consumption and stimulate domestic economic
18 growth;

19 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED,**
20 to direct the appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of
21 legislation, on the economic impact of the novel corona virus outbreak with
22 the end view of strengthening macroeconomic fundamentals and proposing
23 economic stimulus packages supported by appropriate legislation

24 Adopted,
25



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