A RESOLUTION

STRONGLY URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO INCREASE THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET OF THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT TO TWO BILLION FIVE HUNDRED MILLION PESOS (PHP2,500,000,000.00) FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMUNITY-BASED MONITORING SYSTEM

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 11315 was enacted into law in April 2019 adopting the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) to generate updated and disaggregated data necessary in targeting beneficiaries, conducting more comprehensive poverty analysis and needs prioritization, designing appropriate policies and interventions, and monitoring impact over time;

WHEREAS, the CBMS is established and instituted in every city and municipality where the aforementioned local government units shall act as the primary data collecting authority while the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) serves as the lead agency and national repository of all poverty data collected by the cities and municipalities;

WHEREAS, R.A. 11315 authorizes the allocation of financial assistance to cities and municipalities to implement the CBMS, prioritizing fourth, fifth, and sixth class cities and municipalities during the first three (3) years of implementation and thereafter
progressively extending the same assistance to other cities and municipalities to ensure the full implementation of the CBMS;

WHEREAS, pursuant to R.A. 11315, the PSA included in its proposed budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 the allocation of Two Billion Five Hundred Million Pesos (Php2,500,000,000.00) as financial assistance of the national government to fourth, fifth, and sixth class cities and municipalities for the implementation of the CBMS in 2021;

WHEREAS, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) reduced the proposed allocation to only Eighty-Five Million Pesos (Php85,000,000.00) as indicated in the FY 2021 National Expenditure Program submitted to the House of Representatives;

WHEREAS, the reduced budget of Php85 million is calculated to cover only preparatory undertakings thereby adversely affecting the capability, particularly of fourth, fifth, and sixth class cities and municipalities, to actually implement the CBMS starting in FY 2021;

WHEREAS, as an economic and social tool, the implementation of the CBMS is vital to the formulation and implementation of poverty alleviation and development programs which are specific, targeted, and responsive to the basic needs of each sector of the community;

WHEREAS, the accelerated implementation of the CBMS has become even more urgent considering the need to collect data essential to upgrade and expedite the delivery and distribution of social services due to the likely extended negative health and economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic as warned by the World Health Organization and the International Monetary Fund;

WHEREAS, House Resolution No. 937 equally urged the national government to fast-track the integrated implementation of R.A. 11315 and R.A. 11055 or the Philippine Identification System Act, to establish a digital database mechanism in order to rectify, upgrade and expedite the delivery and distribution of social amelioration during the pandemic, as well as all future government programs;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives, to increase the budget of the PSA for FY 2021 to the amount of Php2.5 billion intended as financial assistance to fourth, fifth, and sixth class cities and municipalities in the implementation of the CBMS.

Adopted,

HON. JOSE ENRIQUE S. GARCIA III