

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

First Regular Session
EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

House Resolution No. 653



Introduced by the Honorable Precious Hipolito Castelo

A RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE NEW CORONAVIRUS DISCOVERED IN CHINA AND THE POSSIBILITY OF ENTRY OF SAID VIRUS IN THE PHILIPPINES

WHEREAS, early December, a mysterious and novel strain of coronavirus was discovered in the city of Wuhan in Central China, as an emerging cluster of people with pneumonia of unknown cause linked primarily to workers at the Huanan Seafood Market in said city were confirmed infected;

WHEREAS, Department of Health Undersecretary Eric Domingo earlier said that there is no cause for immediate concern of said virus entering the Philippines, as it seems isolated in Wuhan;

WHEREAS, mostly recently, Chinese authorities have reported 139 new cases of pneumonia caused by the new strain of coronavirus, including a third death, as the outbreak spreads beyond the city of Wuhan¹;

WHEREAS, Thailand and Japan have also detected cases of the virus this month and authorities in both countries are saying that patients had visited Wuhan before falling ill²;

WHEREAS, new cases of the coronavirus in the neighboring countries of China should be enough to entail the DOH, specifically the Bureau of Quarantine, to strengthen their detection measures in order to prevent the entry of the deadly coronavirus in our country;

WHEREAS, it cannot be denied that Chinese tourists are among the most frequent visitors of our country, as reported by the Department of Tourism;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives to direct the Committee on Health to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, into the new coronavirus discovered in China and the possibility of entry of said virus in the Philippines.

ADOPTED,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Precious Hipolito Castelo'.

PRECIOUS HIPOLITO CASTELO

¹ <https://edition.cnn.com/2020/01/19/asia/china-coronavirus-spike-intl-hnk/index.html>

² <https://time.com/5759289/wuhan-pneumonia-outbreak-disease/>