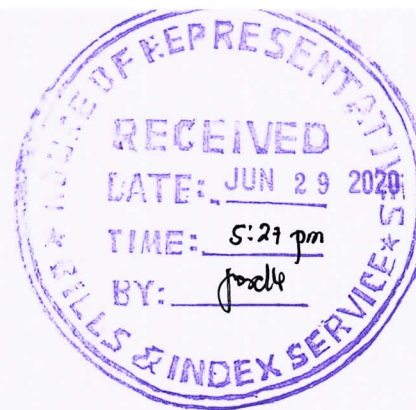


Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
Second Regular Session

House Resolution No. 1010



---

**Introduced by the Honorable Precious Hipolito Castelo**

---

**A RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE LAMENTABLE REPORTING OF CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) TEST RESULTS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AS DEMONSTRATED BY THOUSANDS OF CASE BACKLOGS IN THE COUNTRY**

WHEREAS, on May 30, 2020, the Department of Health (DOH) introduced a new manner of reporting COVID-19 test results by classifying them to “fresh” and “late” cases;

WHEREAS, according to DOH, “fresh cases” refer to test results that came out and were validated by the Epidemiology Bureau in the last three (3) days, while “late cases” are those that came out four (4) days ago or more but were just recently confirmed;

WHEREAS, Philippines is the only country in the world that classifies COVID-19 test results as “fresh” and “late” cases<sup>1</sup>;

WHEREAS, last May 28, 2020, the DOH said during a virtual press briefing that it is aiming to clear its coronavirus testing backlogs on the same day<sup>2</sup>;

WHEREAS, it has been a month since such declaration was made and there is still no change in the manner of reporting COVID-19 cases as “fresh” and “late”, demonstrating that there are still case backlogs;

WHEREAS, experts from the University of the Philippines, who have been constantly reporting COVID-19 data forecasts, advised that timely release of data determines the quality of data analysis<sup>3</sup>;

WHEREAS, delay in the release of test results and delay in the reporting of confirmed test results undeniably compromise the implementation of other health protocols in place, such as contact tracing and isolation of COVID-19 positive patients;

WHEREAS, the delay also creates an uncertainty on whether or not the health protocols in place are sufficient to combat this public health crisis;

WHEREAS, four months into this pandemic, there ought to be an improvement in the pace of COVID-19 testing and reporting, as these are the baseline criteria for crafting policies and strategies which will improve the public health situation in our country;

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cnn.ph/news/2020/6/18/DOH-fresh-late-COVID-cases-reporting-clear-backlogs.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.rappler.com/nation/262250-doh-aims-zero-backlogs-coronavirus-testing-may-28-2020>

<sup>3</sup> <https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/05/28/over-7000-positive-covid-19-cases-not-yet-in-doh-list-up-experts/>

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives to direct the Committee on Health to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the lamentable reporting of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) test results by the Department of Health as demonstrated by thousands of case backlogs in the country.

*ADOPTED,*

  
PRECIOUS HIPOLITO CASTELO