

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Eighteenth Congress
Third Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 2121



Introduced by Representative STELLA LUZ A. QUIMBO

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON GOOD GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE ALLEGED FAILURE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO DISBURSE AND UTILIZE ALLOCATED AND AVAILABLE FUNDS FOR THE BENEFIT OF FRONTLINE HEALTHCARE WORKERS UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11494, OR THE BAYANIHAN TO RECOVER AS ONE ACT, AND DIRECT THE IMMEDIATE PAYMENT OF THE SAID BENEFITS AND ALLOWANCES TO ALL ELIGIBLE FRONTLINE HEALTHCARE WORKERS

- 1 WHEREAS, on March 8, 2020, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte issued Proclamation No.
2 992 declaring a State of Public Health Emergency throughout the Philippines due to the
3 spread of COVID-19;
- 4 WHEREAS, on September 11, 2020, President Duterte signed Republic Act No. 11494 or
5 the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act (Bayanihan 2) to extend COVID-19 response and
6 recovery interventions provided under Republic Act No. 11469 or the Bayanihan to
7 Heal as One Act (Bayanihan 1) and to expand the same;
- 8 WHEREAS, Section 4, subsections (h), (i), (j), (k), and (l) of Bayanihan 2 mandated the
9 provision of COVID-19 special risk allowance, life insurance, accommodation, free
10 meals, and transportation to public and private healthcare workers in addition to
11 assumption of medical expenses of healthcare workers who have been exposed to
12 COVID-19 or any work-related disease or injury, and the provision of compensation for
13 healthcare workers who have contracted COVID-19;
- 14 WHEREAS, Section 10 (a) of Bayanihan 2 appropriates P13.5 billion pesos for the
15 health-related responses in the aforementioned provisions;
- 16 WHEREAS, pursuant to Bayanihan 2, President Duterte issued Administrative Order
17 No. 42, s. 2021 authorizing national government agencies, government-owned and

1 controlled corporations, and local government units to further grant COVID-19 special
2 risk allowance to frontline healthcare workers;

3 WHEREAS, while Section 18 of Bayanihan 2 provides that the law shall expire on
4 December 19, 2020, the availability of the appropriations, among others, under
5 Bayanihan 2 was subsequently extended to June 30, 2021 by virtue of Republic Act No.
6 11519;

7 WHEREAS, on June 30, 2021, on the day of expiration of Bayanihan 2, the president of
8 the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Health Center Employees Union – Alliance of Health
9 Workers demanded that the DOH account for the non-delivery of the benefits due to
10 healthcare workers prescribed under Bayanihan 2 such as meals, accommodation, and
11 transportation, which the national government allegedly failed to provide to some
12 healthcare workers in the private sector¹;

13 WHEREAS, in a meeting among legislators and several private healthcare worker
14 unions in NCR in August 2021, it was alleged that such healthcare workers did not
15 receive the benefits due to them under Bayanihan 2 despite there being allocated funds
16 for the same;

17 WHEREAS, it was further alleged that when these healthcare workers groups raised
18 such concerns to the Department of Health (DOH) – Center for Health Development
19 (CHD), which was in charge of distributing the benefits, the CHD explained that the
20 funds originally earmarked under Bayanihan 2 for payment of benefits to the frontline
21 healthcare workers have already been returned to the Treasury since the law’s
22 effectivity had lapsed;

23 WHEREAS, the CHD reportedly claimed that the reason for the exclusion of some
24 healthcare workers in private hospitals from the list of beneficiaries is the failure of such
25 hospitals to submit a list of their healthcare workers;

26 WHEREAS, members of Congress have received reports that the DOH imposed
27 unreasonable deadlines for private hospitals to submit the documentary requirements
28 to claim the COVID response benefits of their healthcare workers and thus resulting to
29 the nonpayment and non-delivery of Bayanihan 2 benefits to many healthcare workers
30 in private hospitals;

31 WHEREAS, there are also reports which narrate that in spite of hospitals being able to
32 submit the documentary requirements of their healthcare workers, the DOH still failed
33 to pay the benefits due under Bayanihan 2 despite there being allocated funds for the
34 same;

¹ Philippine Daily Inquirer. June 2021.

1 WHEREAS, it would appear that even allied health professionals, such as medical
2 technologists, did not receive their Bayanihan 2 benefits because the DOH had initially
3 excluded them from the list of beneficiaries who should receive special risk allowance
4 causing their late submission of documentary requirements for their claims;

5 WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to review the capacity of DOH to absorb COVID
6 health response funds and its ability to exercise due diligence in disbursing the funds
7 which is meant to alleviate the plight of healthcare workers;

8 WHEREAS, the frontline healthcare workers, and the beneficiaries of those who died
9 performing their functions, now have an established right to be paid their allowances
10 and other benefits under Bayanihan 2, which should not be diminished by reason of
11 poor administrative management of any department or agency;

12 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the House
13 Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability conduct an inquiry in aid
14 of legislation on the alleged failure of the DOH to disburse funds for the benefits under
15 Bayanihan 2, to determine liability among government officials and prevent the same
16 failure of management of funds from recurring in the future;

17 RESOLVED, FURTHER, to direct the immediate payment of the said benefits and
18 allowances to all eligible frontline healthcare workers.

19 Adopted,



STELLA LUZ A. QUIMBO