

Solon urges hotels be used for mild Covid cases

The resolution is in line with the appeal of a group of doctors from the Philippine College of Physicians urging President Rodrigo Duterte to use some Metro Manila hotels as infirmary facilities

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A Quezon City solon has filed a resolution seeking the use of some hotels as treatment or isolation centers for patients suffering from mild symptoms of Covid-19.

In the resolution of Deputy Majority Leader and Quezon City 4th District Rep. Jesus “Bong” Suntay, he said “the repurposing of the hotels and other accommodation facilities as alternative health facilities can contribute in mitigating the effects of the pandemic in the industry.”

The move is seen as a needed measure “to decongest hospitals in Metro Manila,” as infection rates continue to overwhelm health care facilities in the country, he explained.

The legislator added health care professionals are claiming that hospitals are now running at critical or near capacity level, while some have already reached or have gone beyond their limit.

“The Department of Health, through its Covid Bulletin, has revealed that over 79 percent of ICU beds, 72 percent of isolation beds, and 60 percent of ward beds in the National Capital Region are already occupied,” Suntay pointed out.

With many hotels on lockdown due to the reactivation of the enhanced community quarantine in the NCR Plus area, he said the repurposing would help mitigate the financial losses brought about by the closure of these accommodation facilities.

The resolution is in line with the appeal of a group of doctors from the Philippine College of Physicians urging President Rodrigo Duterte to use some Metro Manila hotels as infirmary facilities.

Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire announced recently ICU at 14 of 21 Metro Manila hospitals are at critical levels regarding the number of Covid-19 cases.

Taking into account that 40 percent of patients admitted in these hospitals are either asymptomatic or are mild cases of Covid, these patients can be transferred to the repurposed hotels where doctors and medical frontliners could be assigned to care for them, he suggested.

The resolution is based on the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act, which states that “under national emergency and when the public interest so requires, the State may temporarily take over or direct the operation of any privately owned public utility or business affected with public interest, subject to the limits enshrined in the Constitution under Article XII, Section 17.”

“We cannot deny that the recent surge in Covid-19 cases is not only a major issue for public health, but for the country’s economic recovery as well. Hopefully, we can decide on this resolution quickly, and we will soon be able to alleviate some of Covid-19’s impacts, for our country and people’s sake,” he concluded.