

Comments on **House Resolution No. 834** – “A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11055, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “PHILIPPINE IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM ACT” by Reps. Sol Aragonés and Eugenio Angelo Barba; and **House Resolution No. 937** – “A RESOLUTION URGING THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT TO FAST TRACK THE INTEGRATED IMPLEMENTATION OF RA 11055 (PHILIPPINE IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM ACT) AND RA 11315 (COMMUNITY-BASED MONITORING SYSTEM ACT) AS A VITAL DATABASE MECHANISM IN PROVIDING SOCIAL AMELIORATION DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC” by Rep. Lucy Torres-Gomez.

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1. House Resolution No. 834 directs the proper committee of the House of Representatives to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the status of implementation of RA 11055, or the Philippine Identification System Act.
2. House Resolution No. 937 urges the national government to fast track the implementation of RA 11055 and RA 11315 (CBMS Act) to establish a digital database mechanism in order to rectify, upgrade and expedite the delivery and distribution of social amelioration during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as all future government programs.

#### **Use of CBMS in identifying eligible beneficiaries for assistance programs**

3. I strongly agree with Rep. Lucy Torres-Gomez that the Philippine Identification System and the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) would facilitate the distribution of assistance programs.
4. The CBMS collects individual and household-level data that can identify poor and vulnerable households and individuals. It collects data on the demographic, social and economic characteristics of all households and its members in the barangay.
5. The CBMS data can be processed to identify who would qualify for specific programs based on its eligibility requirements. For instance, CBMS data can identify who are income poor, who have jeepney drivers, who are engaged in farming, or those who are solo parents.

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### **Use of PhilSys in verifying the identity of a person**

6. The national ID system provides a valid proof of identity for a person. It collects the following items of information: (i) full name; (ii) sex; (iii) date of birth; (iv) place of birth; (v) blood type; (vi) address, and (vii) Filipino or resident alien. In addition, optional items of information to be collected are (viii) marital status; (ix) mobile number; and (x) email address. This will then provide a registry of the population, with each individual being given a unique ID number (PhilSys Number) and a physical card. Digital forms of the ID are also part of the system. This will allow for verification of identify of individuals.
7. If the mobile number and email address, currently optional items of information, are collected for all, then contacting the people would be easier. This will facilitate monitoring of recipients of government programs.
8. The PhilSys ID, by itself, cannot be used to identify eligible beneficiaries for means-tested programs since no socio-economic information are collected for the individuals. Beneficiaries that are selected based on sex, age or address are the only ones that can identified by PhilSys.

### **Integrated Implementation of Philsys and CBMS**

9. I fully support the integrated implementation of the Philippine ID system and CBMS. Integration can be done in 2 ways: (i) implementation in the same geographic areas; and (ii) incorporation of PhilSys ID in CBMS.
10. Since it will take a few years to provide everyone with an ID under the national ID system and also to implement CBMS in all cities and municipalities, a coordinated phased approach can be done.
11. The proposed implementation plan for CBMS is to implement CBMS in the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> class municipalities in 2021 and then nationwide implementation in 2024.
12. In the case of the national ID, PSA aims to register 5 million low-income household heads starting October 2020 and majority of the Filipinos and resident aliens in the country by end of 2022 (PSA FB post dated May 14, 2020).
13. To maximize the use of data even before the nationwide implementation of both CBMS and PhilSys, the same areas can be prioritized in the implementation of both systems. This will not be difficult since PSA is spearheading both initiatives. For instance, if only 20 million individuals can be enrolled in the national ID system next year, these individuals should be those residing in areas where CBMS will be implemented next year.
14. The PhilSys ID number of the individual can be used as the member ID in the CBMS tablet-based data collection tool. This will then link the PhilSys with CBMS.
15. The CBMS can also be the avenue for updating the other info in the ID. For instance, we know that those in the urban centers tend to be more mobile so updating of

address may need to be done every 3 years or less. The current address is important in locating people for the delivery of public services.

### **Delivery of public services and safety nets**

16. Establishment of an online integrated database will ensure efficient delivery of public services and safety nets, avoiding duplication and exclusion. This is key in the efficient and timely implementation of targeted programs.
17. All recipients of government assistance programs should be listed and this information can be added to the integrated database. This is particularly important when assistance will be coming from different sources- such as national and local governments, different government agencies, etc. This will ensure that assistance is equitably distributed to all eligible beneficiaries.
18. Putting together data from different sources and processing them to generate lists of eligible beneficiaries requires a lot of effort. This goes beyond registering individuals and providing them ID (PhilSys) and spearheading the capacity building for CBMS implementation. It would be putting a lot of burden on PSA to do this additional task, given its mandate of conducting various nationwide censuses and surveys and the two new tasks of PhilSys and CBMS. Another agency should be tasked to do this, with expertise on developing and estimating quantitative models for targeting.