WHEREAS, Section 15 Article II of the 1987 Constitution states that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them;

WHEREAS, Section 2 (b) of Executive Order No. 168 (s.2014) mandates the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) to prevent and/or minimize the entry of suspected or confirmed patients with emerging infectious diseases into the country;

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2020, the President issued Proclamation No. 1021 (s.2020) extending the period of the State of Calamity throughout the Philippines until September 21, 2021;

WHEREAS, the Department of Health (DOH), the University of the Philippines-Philippine Genome Center (UP-PGC), and the University of the Philippines-National Institutes of Health (UP-NIH) biosurveillance has detected B.1.1.7, B.1.351, P.1, and P.3 variants of the COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the Department of Health (DOH), the University of the Philippines-Philippine Genome Center (UP-PGC), and the University of the Philippines-National Institutes of Health (UP-NIH) biosurveillance has likewise received information on the existence of B.1.617 variant first detected in India;

WHEREAS, the continued implementation of proactive measures and restrictions must be put in place to slow down the surge in COVID-19 cases, stop further spread of variants, buy time for the health system to cope, and to protect more lives;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, that the IATF reaffirms the national government-enabled, local government-led, and people-centered response against COVID-19. Thus, Cabinet Secretaries serving as Cabinet Officers for Regional Development and Security (CORDS) are reminded of their functions and responsibilities in supervising their respective Region’s Inter-Agency Task Force and Regional Task Forces. In addition thereto, the following Cabinet Secretaries shall hereby be assigned to provide stronger support to local government units with areas identified with high community transmission, inasmuch as to strictly monitor health system performance, critical care capacity, and stringent compliance to surveillance, isolation, and treatment protocols:
For this purpose, the aforementioned IATF members are hereby instructed to coordinate with the respective Local Government Unit under their oversight the following directives for urgent implementation:

1. Expansion of health system capacities or the proactive dedication of COVID-19 beds, especially ICU beds, which should be thirty percent (30%) for private health facilities and fifty percent (50%) for public health facilities;
2. Strengthening the Prevention - Detection - Isolation Treatment - Reintegration (PDITR) Strategies, specifically the reduction of time period between detection of COVID-19 cases to their isolation; and
3. Providing express lanes for Vaccine Priority Groups A1 to A3 with special attention to be given to Priority Group A2 (senior citizens).

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Chairperson and the Co-Chairperson shall be duly authorized to sign this Resolution for and on behalf of the Inter-Agency Task Force.

APPROVED during the 118th Inter-Agency Task Force Meeting, as reflected in the minutes of the meeting, held this May 31, 2021, via video conference.

FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III
Secretary, Department of Health
IATF Chairperson
CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that:

1. I am presently an Assistant Secretary of the Department of Health;

2. I am the OIC-Head of the Secretariat of the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) on the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases created under Executive Order No. 168, (s.2014) and chaired by the Department of Health (DOH);

3. The IATF Secretariat holds office in the DOH Main Office, San Lazaro Compound, Tayuman, Sta. Cruz, Manila;

4. I am the custodian of the records of the IATF, including the Minutes of Meetings and Resolutions;

5. In a regular meeting of the IATF, the IATF Resolution No. 118 was unanimously approved and adopted.

6. The foregoing resolution has been signed by Secretary Francisco T. Duque III and Secretary Karlo Alexei B. Nograles upon the authority of the IATF Members;

7. The aforesaid resolution has not been altered, modified nor revoked and the same is now in full force and effect:

8. I am executing this Certification for whatever legitimate purpose this may serve.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my signature this 31st day of May 2021, Manila.

ATTY. CHARADE B. MERCADO-GRANDE
Assistant Secretary of Health
Head Secretariat, IATF