

Rodrigo Roa Duterte  
President  
Republic of the Philippines

October 7, 2020

Dear Mr. President,

We, the members of the Concerned Doctors and Citizens of the Philippines, wish to request your kind attention regarding an issue of grave national concern. Mr. President, it has been many months since the Coronavirus first reached our shores. Today we know much, much more than we knew before... and the news is good, Sir. Scientific evidence from all across the globe reveals that COVID-19 is, in fact, nowhere near as deadly as the WHO's earlier estimate, the very same estimate on which the decision to put the country on lockdown was made.

In fact, renowned scientists such as Nobel Prize Laureate Dr. Michael Levitt, Dr. Jay Bhattacharya of the Stanford School of Medicine, Professor John Ioannidis of Stanford University and Professors Sunetra Gupta and Carl Meneghan of Oxford University have all proven that the COVID-19 virus is very much like the seasonal flu in lethality.

In the Philippines, the estimated number of people who died from influenza from 2006 to 2015 (Cheng, KJ et al) found mean deaths per year was 5,347 with the highest number of estimated deaths at 8,666 in 2015. Roughly 5,347 influenza deaths every year with almost double that number in 2015... and yet the country never went into lockdown.



Mr. President, the numbers do not lie. Rather, they clearly prove that COVID's lethality is very similar to influenza or flu. Our position is wholly supported by data from the Department of Health's official COVID website. The country's test positivity rate is down to 8% from 10% two months ago. Our hospitals are no longer full and now very manageable at about half-capacity of the COVID-allotted ICU and ward beds. The number of deaths from COVID in the NCR and CALABARZON and Central Visayas is on a definite downtrend, especially considering the total number of COVID deaths per million in the country is far lower than most countries worldwide.

Clearly, Sir, we are no longer trying to prevent the 3.67 million Filipino deaths the WHO predicted we would lose seven months ago. Mr. President, the good news is we do not need to sacrifice our nation's economy to save the lives of the 800+ high-risk Filipinos each month who are actually threatened by COVID.

To do this we propose the adoption of a scientific, data-driven and objective response:

- isolation and early treatment of the sick
- prioritization of the protection of the vulnerable, i.e. the elderly and those with medical comorbidities
- quarantine only of affected localities based on metrics such as death rates, ICU capacity and positivity rates

We propose the early treatment of COVID 19 with a variety of drugs and supplements such as Faviparivir, Budesonide, the very promising Ivermectin and the Zelenko Protocol, which combines zinc and Azithromycin with the highly politicized yet long proven effective hydroxychloroquine. Despite all the controversy surrounding HCQ, there remains very strong medical support for its efficacy in reducing mortality, hospitalization and the severity of the disease. We would be more than willing to discuss all the data and our actual successful use of these medications with our hundreds of patients should we be granted an audience with you, Sir.

With these measures in place, Mr. President, businesses and schools can return to full operation very quickly with minimal expense and a reduced number of proper health protocols. Mandatory mitigation measures such as face masks and social distancing would still be utilized in high risk areas such as hospitals, testing centers and high traffic zones. Other physical means of infection prevention could also be practiced, but this time on a purely personal and voluntary basis to help flatten the people's fear of contagion.

Mr. President, more than anyone else we know that you are keenly aware of the massive damage the lockdowns have already brought and continue to bring to our economy. Not only are these lockdowns limiting our God-given personal freedoms and livelihoods, they also bring with them a multitude of physical and mental issues. They have caused the neglect of life-threatening diseases such as cancer and

heart disease, increased the numbers of suicides, as well as impaired our children's social and psychological development.

Mr. President, we know you want a better future for our children, one that is free of fear and instead filled with joy, peace and hope. With these sound, scientific and medically-proven measures in place, we will finally be able to end the nightmares caused to our children by the unnatural sight of people walking around in scary masks and plastic face shields. Together, Sir, we can rebuild the economy and bring the Philippines back to normal. Together, Sir, we can heal as one!

God bless you, Mr. President, and God bless the Philippines!

Respectfully yours,

Concerned Doctors and Citizens of the Philippines, as represented by:



Dr. Benigno Agbayani, Jr.



Dr. Homer Lim



Dr. Jerry Jurado



Atty. Estrella Elamparo



Ms. Ruby Ang



Mr. Francis Abraham



Mr. Mari Kaimo