

HEADLINES 11.5K

'CALL TO HUMANITY' OPPOSES MANDATORY COVID-19 INOCULATION

Group readying suit vs 'coercive, discriminatory' vax policies

By: Dexter Cabalza, Jerome Aning - @inquirerdotnet Philippine Daily Inquirer / 05:32 AM December 02, 2021



Nicanor Perlas (Photo Courtesy of Covid Call to Humanity)

MANILA, Philippines — A group opposing mandatory vaccination is set to bring charges against the government for allegedly forcing Filipinos to get jabbed against COVID-19 and imposing policies discriminatory to those who refuse to do so.

In a phone interview on Wednesday, Nicanor Perlas, head of COVID-19 Call to Humanity (CCH), said a legal team was finalizing the “series of lawsuits we have been preparing for a month.” He did not disclose details but said the suits would be filed “as soon as possible.”

He said victims of all forms of vaccine coercion, vaccine-injured persons, and those who lost a relative that had received at least one jab were among the plaintiffs.

The lawsuits are in response to the government’s inaction to the “cease and desist” document and notice of liability to stop “mindless lockdowns and

EDITORS' PICK MOST READ

NEWSINFO Metro Manila now 'very low risk' for COVID-19 — OCTA Research

BUSINESS BIR audits tax compliance of Pharmally

NEWSINFO Manila court clears exec in M/V Princess of the Stars tragedy

TECHNOLOGY Smart offers wireless fiber-like speeds to Filipino homes with country's first 5G Prepaid Home WiFi

TECHNOLOGY Holidays made best with Acer's 'Holidays at Home' raffle promo

BUSINESS Two more sites at Robinsons Malls for temporary offsite passport services

News that matters

Your e-mail address [Subscribe now](#)

By providing an email address, I agree to the [Terms of Use](#) and acknowledge that I have read the [Privacy Policy](#).

DOH POSITION

INQUIRER.NET

The 86-page dossier was submitted in October to the Office of the President and other government agencies, as well as hundreds of local government units (LGUs). According to Perlas, the Department of Health responded that it would maintain the status quo.

“The general response was it’s business as usual, and they basically ignored it, so we will be filing lawsuits after exhausting administrative remedies,” he said.

In response, the DOH on Wednesday said it was standing with the medical community in reiterating the safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines.

“All information about the vaccines has been made transparent and open to the public. Before being approved for emergency use, these vaccines have been properly tested to ensure that the benefits of the vaccination far outweigh any risk,” Dr. Beverly Ho, concurrent director IV of the Health Promotion Bureau and the Disease Prevention and Control Bureau.

She said that from March to November, 93 percent of COVID-19 deaths in the Philippines were unvaccinated Filipinos.

Cabinet Secretary and acting presidential spokesperson Karlo Nograles said on Wednesday that the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) had yet to decide on whether to impose mandatory vaccination.

“We will need a law on that,” Nograles, who is IATF cochair, told ANC. “We in the IATF, we continue to discuss it. We also don’t want to preempt Congress.”

‘Dangerous’ 2019 provisions

But he cited Interior Secretary Eduardo Año’s opinion that LGUs could pass ordinances requiring mandatory vaccination.

Perlas and the CCH are mainly opposing the IATF’s Resolution No. 148-B which, among its “dangerous” provisions, compels employers to require all on-site workers to be fully vaccinated, strongly enjoins local governments to ramp up demand for vaccination, and prioritizes fully inoculated persons for services from both government and public and private establishments.

“What is happening is there is discrimination between vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals, which is unconstitutional,” said Perlas, a sustainable development advocate who made an unsuccessful run for the presidency in 2010.

It’s OK to be vaccinated, but the government should not coerce people “and create conditions that will force them to get vaccinated,” he said.

shall not be considered an additional mandatory requirement for educational, employment and other government-transaction purposes.

Perlas said the CCH had “more than 100,000” supporters composed of doctors, lawyers, researchers, workers from the private and public sectors, businesspersons and lay leaders.

He said that since the CCH’s inception, it had been receiving “almost 50 complaints” daily from Filipinos forced to get jabbed against Covid-19—from government employees to impoverished beneficiaries of government programs.

Informed choice

“Forced vaccination is rape of our body, soul and spirit,” Perlas said, quoting from the CCH statement.

“We insist on free and informed choice that is based on full disclosure of the adverse effects of Covid-19 vaccines, and our constitutionally protected human right to choose what kind of drugs and vaccines will be injected into our bodies,” he said.

Interior Secretary Año earlier said that in the absence of a law requiring COVID -19 vaccination, LGUs could, through Section 16 of the Local Government Code, issue executive orders and ordinances that will protect their constituents.

Perlas said such “executive orders and ordinances” would be challenged by CCH members in their respective localities.

But at the Palace public briefing, Health Undersecretary Myrna Cabotaje, head of the National Vaccination Operations Center, backed calls to make vaccination mandatory.

“Yes, that is the only way for everyone to get vaccinated. You know the directive of the President that no one should be left behind. So everybody should get vaccinated,” she said.

President Duterte on Monday said he might approve a recommendation for mandatory vaccination should the IATF make it.

He said he could invoke powers to implement measures to protect public health even in the absence of a law, adding that he would not sit idly while unvaccinated persons get sick with COVID-19 and infect others.

Restrictions

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana is all for making COVID-19 jabs mandatory, and is proposing restrictions for the unvaccinated.

“Everyone should contribute to the health of the community, Lorenzana,

He said the unvaccinated were “vulnerable [to] getting the virus and getting seriously sick,” and would “not only burden the state [with] their hospitalization but also spread the virus around.”

Lorenzana said unvaccinated persons could be barred from traveling or entering public places such as malls, restaurants or stadiums unless they produce a negative result of a reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) test taken within 72 hours.

Or, he said, unvaccinated workers could take weekly RT-PCR tests at their own expense so they could report for work.

—WITH REPORTS FROM JEANNETTE I. ANDRADE AND TINA G. SANTOS

FREE 30-DAY TRIAL

INQ PLUS

CLICK HERE

Straightforward information, forwarded straight to your device.

INQ Newsletters

SUBSCRIBE NOW!

guyito@email.com SUBMIT

READ NEXT

COVID-19 booster shots OK for all adults – FDA

Don't miss out on the latest news and information. Like us Follow us

Subscribe to **INQUIRER PLUS** to get access to The Philippine Daily Inquirer & other 70+ titles, share up to 5 gadgets, listen to the news, download as early as 4am & share articles on social media. Call 896 6000.

TAGS: [case vs mandatory COVID-19 vaccination](#), [covid-19 vaccination](#), [Nicanor Perlas](#)

For feedback, complaints, or inquiries, [contact us](#).

Disclaimer: Comments do not represent the views of INQUIRER.net. We reserve the right to exclude comments which are inconsistent with our editorial standards. [FULL DISCLAIMER](#)

THE INQUIRER CHANNELS

- [News](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
- [Lifestyle](#)
- [Technology](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Opinion](#)
- [Global Nation](#)
- [USA NEWS](#)

SERVICES

- [Mobile](#)
- [RSS](#)
- [Email Us](#)
- [Archive](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Newsletter](#)
- [Job Openings](#)

THE INQUIRER COMPANY

- [About INQUIRER.net](#)
- [About the INQUIRER](#)
- [User Agreement](#)
- [Link Policy](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)
- [Article Index](#)

PARTNERS

- [Libre](#)
- [Hinge Inquirer](#)
- [Bandera](#)
- [Cebu Daily News](#)
- [DZIQ990 AM](#)
- [Motion Cars](#)