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By Arlie O. Calalo

April 14, 2022

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Chong and a doctor from the Manila Doctors' Hospital on Tuesday took the witness stand at the trial of the case that seeks to stop the mass vaccination of minors against Covid-19.

Appearing before Judge Maria Cherell de Castro-Sansaet of Branch 222 of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court, Chong insisted that the mass vaccination conducted by the Department of Health (DoH) was not mandated under Republic Act (RA) 11525 or the "Covid-19 Vaccination Program."

Dr. Benigno Agbayani, meanwhile, said the inoculation was only experimental in nature.



Persida Rueda-Acosta, chief of the Public Attorney's Office (PAO) who personally handled the case, was able to convince the judge to rule against the motion of the Office of the Solicitor General to dismiss the case for being moot and academic.

The petitioners — broadcast journalist Dominic Almelor and Girlie Samonte — are seeking an injunction against the vaccination program on the ground that the DoH violated RA11525 when it issued Memorandum 2022-0041 dated Jan. 24, 2022, which requires the vaccination of minors ages five to 11 years old.



"The law only provided for and identified the following groups: health care workers, senior citizens, persons with comorbidities, frontline personnel in essential services, including uniformed personnel and teachers, and indigent population, and the following special groups: frontline workers in health facilities, senior citizens, and indigent persons, as the beneficiaries, respectively, of the vaccines funded by the national and local government units," Chong said.

The former congressman stressed that the DoH based the "questionable" memorandum on RA 11525.



However, going over the provisions of RA 11525, the DoH has no legal basis to issue its order to vaccinate children ages 5 to 11 years old, he said.

"When a government agency issues rules and regulations like this department memorandum, it should be anchored on a clear grant of authority by the law because the DoH does not have the power to legislate. Under our system of government, only the legislature has the power to legislate laws. Thus, when it comes to the issuance of rules and regulations by administrative agencies, subordinate legislation is allowed only when there is a

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Comelec junks last case filed vs BBM

BY WILLIAM DEPASUPIL

THE Commission on Elections (Comelec) dismissed the last petition that seeks to disqualify presidential frontrunner Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. for lack of merit.

The panel body's First Division chaired by Commissioner Socorro Bralcastro dismissed the petition filed by the Partido Demokratiko Pilipino-Laban (PDP-Laban) against Marcos Jr. The petition sought to disqualify Marcos Jr. from running for president in 2022.

COMELEC TRAIL
The panel body's First Division chaired by Commissioner Socorro Bralcastro dismissed the petition filed by the Partido Demokratiko Pilipino-Laban (PDP-Laban) against Marcos Jr. The petition sought to disqualify Marcos Jr. from running for president in 2022.

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valid delegation of legislative authority," Chong said.



"The DoH memorandum was issued with grave abuse of discretion to the detriment of the life or health of the pediatric population ages 5 to 11. The DoH has exceeded the authority delegated to it by Congress," he added.

He said that the DoH made the vaccination of minors mandatory.

Chong said that the... in...

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- OTC**: A section titled 'What's Inside' featuring 'SURVEYS SNAPSHOTS OF VOTERS' PREFERENCE - OCTA' and 'ASSESSING OUR RISK ENVIRONMENT' by Rafael M. Alunan 3rd.
- Advertisement**: A large advertisement for Absorbio water with the slogan 'For the family, only Absolute quality.' and 'Pure water. Pure love.' It features a woman and children holding water bottles.



Unong said there are provisions in other administrative issuances, like the official statement of the Department of Education (DepEd) on the expansion of limited face-to-face classes, which renders the vaccination of children mandatory.

The DepEd said that only vaccinated teachers can participate in face-to-face classes and vaccinated learners shall be given preference.

"In this way, vaccination becomes indirectly but effectively imposed upon the child," he pointed out.

"We all have the obligation to



protect our children. It is clear that there is no basis in law for the vaccination of these children ages 5 to 11. Given the risks that our children will be unnecessarily exposed to an experimental drug; we cannot go that wrong," he said.

Agbayani, co-founder and past president of the Concerned Doctors and Citizens of the Philippines, told the court that Covid-19 vaccines were only experimental, having been merely granted Emergency Use Authorization by the Food and Drug Administration.

"Therefore, there must be surveillance on the safety and efficacy of the same and the



...of the same and the persons in charge of the public health should be aware of the red flags of an experimental vaccine, such as deaths and injuries following Covid shots," said Agbayani, former chairman of the Orthopedic Department of the Manila Doctors Hospital.

"There are even recorded incidents of Bell's Palsy. Therefore, considering that there are adverse events that may occur following the inoculation of an experimental drug, there should be no coerced mass vaccination, especially to our children who are more vulnerable members of the society," he said.

De Castro-Sansaet set another

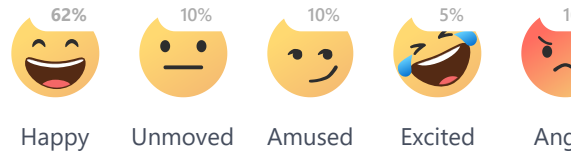


Dr. Romeo Quijano, Dr. Erwin Erfe

hearing on April 26 for the continuation of Agbayani's testimony. Dr. Romeo Quijano, a pharmacologist and toxicologist, and PAO Forensics Division chief Dr. Erwin Erfe are expected to take the witness stand on May 10.

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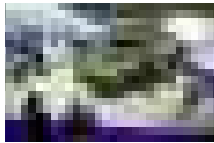
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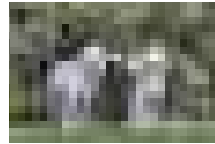


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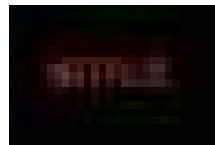
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