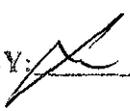




'10 DEC -9 P2:21

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

P.S. Resolution No. 309

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

RESOLUTION URGING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE/S TO ASSESS, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE PRESENT DRUG DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY VIS-À-VIS THE COMMERCIALIZATION OF HEALTH RESEARCHES IN THE COUNTRY WITH THE OBJECTIVES OF DEVELOPING HEALTH ALTERNATIVES AND PROVIDING COST EFFECTIVE MEDICINES FOR THE PEOPLE.

Whereas, Section 10 of Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution provides:

“Sec. 10. Science and Technology are essential for national development and progress. The State shall give priority to research and development, invention, innovation, and their utilization; and to science and technology education, training, and services. It shall support indigenous, appropriate, and self-reliant scientific and technological capabilities and their application to the country’s productive systems and national life.”;

Whereas, Section 11 of Article XIII thereof states that:

“Section 11. The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the under-privileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers.”;

Whereas, Next to Japan, the Philippines has Asia's second most costly medicines, with some drugs priced five to forty five times higher than the same medicines sold in India or Pakistan;¹

Whereas, the Philippines is classified by the World Health Organization as among the countries where less than 30 percent of the population have regular access to essential drugs;²

Whereas, currently, the research on drug products by the Department of Science and Technology resulted in the development of Lagundi (*Vitex Negundo* L.) tablets and syrup which, together with Sambong (*Blumea Balsamifera* L.) products have sold a total of 3.3 million units equivalent to about P430 million in gross sales;

¹ <http://www.globalaging.org/health/world/2006/cutcost.htm> 12/8/10 11:15 AM

² *The Prices People Have to Pay for Medicines in the Philippines*, Dennis B. Batangan, M.D., M.Sc., Institute of Philippine Culture, Ateneo de Manila University

Whereas, the Department of Health has identified 10 medicinal plants in its "Traditional Health Program" which with further research can be a valuable resource for commercial drug products;

Whereas, developing the Philippine drug industry with the aid of research in traditional health pharmaceuticals will contribute to the decrease in the cost of medicines and will allow the people greater access to cost effective medication for their ailments;

Whereas, intensifying the drug development program of the Department of Science and Technology will aid the local drug producers in developing their products making them more competitive in terms of quality and affordability;

NOW, WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Philippines to urge the appropriate Senate Committee/s to assess, in aid of legislation the present drug development program of the Department of Science and Technology vis-à-vis the commercialization of health researches in the country with the objectives of developing health alternatives and providing cost-effective medicines for the people.

Adopted,



MANNY VILLAR