

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

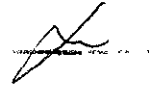
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SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 1021

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Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES IN THE SENATE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE RECENTLY REPORTED SWINE INFLUENZA VIRUS (SWINE FLU) PANDEMIC, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF PROTECTING THE HEALTH AND WELL BEING OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC

WHEREAS, the protection of public health is the primary duty of the State, as it is its mission to promote and protect the well being of its citizens;

WHEREAS, just recently, the World Health Organization (WHO) expressed international concern over swine flu which has pandemic potential and can infect people in large numbers around the world;

WHEREAS, swine influenza virus (referred to as SIV or swine flu) refers to influenza cases that are caused by Orthomyxoviruses endemic to pig populations. Swine flu infects people every year and is found typically in people who have been in contact with pigs, although there have been cases of person-to-person transmission. Symptoms include fever, disorientation, stiffness of the joints, vomiting, and loss of consciousness ending in death;

WHEREAS, the symptoms and transmission of the swine flu from human to human is much like seasonal flu, commonly fever, lethargy, lack of appetite and coughing. Some people with swine flu also have reported runny nose, sore throat, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. It is believed to be spread between humans through cough, sneezing and touching something with the virus on it and then touching their own nose or mouth. The swine flu in humans is most contagious during the first five days of the illness although some people, commonly children, can remain contagious for up to ten days.

WHEREAS, in Mexico alone, reports indicate that more than 80 people have died and around 1,300 individuals were infected with swine flu. Most of those who died are confirmed to have a unique flu type that is a combination of bird, pig, and human viruses. The virus is genetically identical to one found in California, USA. Aside from Mexico, cases of swine flu have been detected in Kansas City, Texas, California and New York City;

WHEREAS, on April 24, 2009, in Geneva, Switzerland, the WHO warned countries around the world to be on alert for unusual flu outbreaks after a unique new swine flu virus was reported to have caused dozens of human deaths in North America;

WHEREAS, WHO Director General Dr. Margaret Chan ordered all WHO member-nations to step up their disease surveillance and to report to WHO all cases of death that are suspected to be due to swine flu. In fact, several Latin American and Asian countries have already started surveillance or screening at airports and other points of entry;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need for our government to institute immediate preventive health measures in order to prevent and control the spread of this deadly swine flu virus in order to protect the health of our citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as it is hereby resolved to direct the Senate Committee on Health and Demography and other appropriate Committees in the Senate to conduct an inquiry, *In Aid of Legislation*, into the recently reported Swine Influenza Virus (Swine Flu) pandemic, with the end in view of protecting the health and well being of the general public.

ADOPTED,


MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator