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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1371

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED ALARMING RISE IN DENGUE
CASES WITH A VIEW TO IMPLEMENT MEASURES TO ADDRESS THE
DENGUE SITUATION WHICH HAS REPORTEDLY REACHED
EPIDEMIC PROPORTIONS ACROSS THE GLOBE

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 15 states: "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them";

WHEREAS, *The Philippine Star* in its article dated 2 September 2009 reported that dengue is becoming a global public health threat owing to rapid urbanization, growing population, increasing international travel and climate change;

WHEREAS, Health Secretary, Francisco Duque, said the Philippines had already experienced its second worst year of dengue outbreak since we reported the first one in 1998;

WHEREAS, Secretary Duque added that in 2007, the country had over 45,300 cases and 416 deaths; it was also the third straight year that the country had been trying to push back an alarming rise in reported dengue cases, a pattern that was unusual because the Department of Health was reporting dengue even at the start of the year – outside of the peak dengue season;

WHEREAS, it was reported that dengue expert, Dr. Duane Gubler, said that dengue is no longer confined to tropical countries and is spreading rapidly across the globe;

WHEREAS, Dr. Gubler said dengue has reached epidemic proportions also because of "lack of effective mosquito control";

WHEREAS, climate change is also being eyed as a "driver" for expanding geographical distribution of dengue;

WHEREAS, the report claimed that nearly 200 people have died while more than 16,000 others have been hospitalized this year because of dengue;

WHEREAS, the National Capital Region (NCR) accounted for twenty-three percent (23%) of the total cases;

WHEREAS, other regions that posted a high number of dengue cases were Southern Mindanao, Calabarzon, Western Visayas, Region 12, and Central Luzon;

WHEREAS, the alarming dengue situation in the country, as well as across the globe, which has reportedly reached epidemic proportions because of climate change and lack of effective mosquito control, must be immediately addressed by the responsible government agencies and local authorities;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the reported alarming rise in dengue cases with a view to implement measures to address the dengue situation which has reportedly reached epidemic proportions across the globe.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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