

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
P.S.R No. 582

RECEIVED BY: ja

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH OF THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF FILIPINOS DYING FROM TUBERCULOSIS DAILY DESPITE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS AIMED IN PREVENTING THE SPREAD AND CURING THE DISEASE

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

WHEREAS, tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious bacterial disease that commonly affects the lungs. It is transmitted from person to person via droplets from the throat and lungs of people with the active respiratory disease.

WHEREAS, an article in the *The Philippine Star* dated 15 March 2014 reported that, according to the Department of Health (DOH), 63 Filipinos die every day due to TB despite the government's massive campaign against the spread of the deadly infection;

WHEREAS, DOH Assistant Secretary Eric Tayag reportedly said TB prevalence in the country has declined in the last 21 years, but many TB patients nationwide die daily due to failure to seek medical treatment;

WHEREAS, Asec. Tayag said the latest DOH data showed that 712 Filipinos get afflicted with TB every day, but only 632 seek treatment;

WHEREAS, Asec. Tayag also said that only 577 of those who were able to seek medical treatment are able to complete the six-month medication, which is the reason 63 Filipinos still die daily due to TB;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the fatalities continue despite the DOH spending ₱1,000 per month for free medicines given to every TB patient who avail of the government's Directly Observed Therapy-Short Course (DOTS) strategy;

WHEREAS, Asec. Tayag reportedly urged TB patients to immediately seek medical treatment to prevent the infection from spreading, and that the cost of medication would be much cheaper compared to the treatment of those suffering from multi-drug resistant TB;

WHEREAS, Asec. Tayag reportedly said many Filipinos are unable to get medical treatment because they are unaware that they are afflicted with the disease;

WHEREAS, Asec. Tayag also said that there are also many who refuse to seek medical help due to stigma associated with TB because the government has yet to address the myths about the disease;

WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE, to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the Department of Health reporting an increase in the number of Filipinos dying from tuberculosis daily despite the implementation of government programs aimed in preventing the spread and curing the disease.

Adopted,

all
Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/RJD