

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. 614

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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RESOLUTION  
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN  
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE WORLD HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION'S RECOMMENDATIONS IN PREVENTING VECTOR-  
BORNE DISEASES

WHEREAS, the Constitution Article 2, Section 14 provides: "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them";

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 16 provides: "The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature";

WHEREAS, according to the 2 April 2014 press release by the World Health Organization, the World Health Organization has issued recommendations in preventing vector-borne diseases as it highlights the serious and increasing threat of such diseases;

WHEREAS, vector-borne diseases reportedly affect the poorest populations, particularly where there is a lack of access to adequate housing, safe drinking water, and sanitation

WHEREAS, it was reported that malnourished people and those with weakened immunity are especially susceptible to vector-borne diseases;

WHEREAS, the WHO also reportedly emphasized that these diseases are entirely preventable;

WHEREAS, the WHO outlined steps in its publication "A global brief on vector-borne diseases" that governments, community groups, and families can all follow to protect people from infection through simple, cost-effective interventions like insecticide-treated bed nets and indoor spraying to fight against diseases such as dengue;

WHEREAS, it was reported that Schistosomiasis, transmitted by water snails, is the most widespread of all vector-borne diseases, and affects almost 240 million people worldwide, while causing anaemia and a reduced ability to learn in

children; it can also be controlled through regular mass treatment of at-risk groups with a safe, effective medicine, as well as improving access to safe drinking water and sanitation;

WHEREAS, Congress should take into urgent consideration the World WHO's recommendation to prevent outbreaks of vector-borne diseases in the country through legislation aimed in sustaining existing vector-control tools, as well as medicines and diagnostic tools, and to conduct urgently needed research on these diseases;

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the World Health Organization's recommendations in preventing vector-borne diseases;

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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