

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



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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 662

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 NEED TO STRENGTHEN LAWS TO PREVENT AND MITIGATE THE OUTBREAK OF CHOLERA IN THE COUNTRY, CITING THE RECENT OUTBREAK IN NORTH COTABATO

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, the *Philstar.com*, in its online article posted on 14 May 2014, reported that five villagers have died while 103 others have been hospitalized due to cholera in three adjoining barangays in Alamada town this province;

WHEREAS, Alamada Vice Mayor Samuel Alim reportedly said the five villagers died between May 10 and 12 due to dehydration;

WHEREAS, Alim reportedly said that the victims appeared afflicted with cholera because they had excessive bowel movement and eventually kept vomiting until they got dehydrated and died one after another;

WHEREAS, Ruben Cadava, municipal administrator of Alamada, reportedly said the cholera cases were reported in the hinterland barangays of Dado, Lower Dado, Pigcawaran and Mapurok, where villagers fetch drinking water from mountain springs and tributaries of rivers from nearby forested areas;

WHEREAS, the two government officials reportedly said the first group of villagers who sought medical attention after experiencing painful abdominal spasms and nausea were residents of Dado and Lower Dado;

WHEREAS, Vice Mayor Alim said local clinics are now full of patients from the affected barangays;

WHEREAS, Vice Mayor Alim said epidemiologists from the Department of Health-Region 12 and the Integrated Provincial Health Office (IPHO) took stool samples of the patients for laboratory tests last 12 May 2014;

WHEREAS, it is imperative for the State to institute immediate measures to mitigate the cholera outbreaks in the country, as well as strengthen existing legislation based on this epidemic to prepare the country for any threat that may come in our way;

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 need to strengthen laws to prevent and mitigate the outbreak of cholera in the country, citing the recent outbreak in North Cotabato.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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