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P. S. R. No. **1104**



Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT THAT THERE HAVE BEEN ALMOST 500 NEW HIV CASES IN THE PHILIPPINES IN NOVEMBER 2014

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

WHEREAS, a news article posted on ABS-CBNNews.com on 5 January 2014 claimed that 492 new cases of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infections were documented in the country in November 2014;

WHEREAS, data from the National Epidemiology Center of the Department of Health also reportedly showed that of the total HIV cases in November 2014, there were 40 cases of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and 10 deaths;

WHEREAS, the DOH reportedly said the November 2014 total is 28 percent higher than the 384 cases recorded in the same month in 2013;

WHEREAS, according to the DOH, 134 of the new cases involved patients aged 15 to 24;

WHEREAS, it was noted that sexual contact accounted for 464 cases, 250 of them were due to homosexual contact and 146 due to bisexual contact, and 28 cases involved injecting drug users who shared infected needles;

WHEREAS, 83 of the new HIV cases reportedly came from the National Capital Region, Region 4-A, Region 2 and Region 11;

WHEREAS, the new data is said to have brought to 5,502 the number of cases since January 2014 and to 22,018 since 1984;

WHEREAS, the government should address the alarming increase of HIV and AIDS cases in the country;

WHEREAS, Congress, through relevant legislation and in coordination with national agencies, must ensure that the public is adequately educated about HIV;

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 report that there have been 500 new HIV cases in the Philippines in November 2014.

Adopted,

MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO Ap

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