

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



15 MAR -3 P4 26

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1210

RECEIVED BY: *J.*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE COMMISSION ON AUDIT'S (COA) REPORT THAT A NUMBER OF QUEZON MEDICAL CENTER'S PATIENTS DIED WITHOUT RECEIVING THE BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS THEY NEEDED BECAUSE THEY FAILED TO PAY LABORATORY FEES IMMEDIATELY

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, Rappler.com, in a news article posted on 19 February 2015, reported that state auditors discovered that a number of patients in Quezon's provincial hospital died without receiving the blood transfusions they needed because they failed to immediately pay laboratory fees;

WHEREAS, the news cited the Commission on Audit (COA), which said in its 2013 report on the hospital that confined patients who needed to undergo blood transfusion were required to pay the blood screening fee before they received the required medical treatment;

WHEREAS, the audit report is said to have showed that the Quezon Medical Center would not perform blood screening on confined patients unless they first paid anywhere between ₱1,500 and ₱4,500;

WHEREAS, because blood screening is necessary before a transfusion is made, delays in the procedure allegedly exposed patients to unnecessary risks;

WHEREAS, documents reportedly indicated that a number of patients died before they received blood transfusions;

WHEREAS, the COA cited several documents showing that there were patients who were not able to use the purchased bags of blood due to death of said patients;

WHEREAS, state auditors claimed that the hospital's no-fees-no-tests policy violates Republic Act No. 8344, which penalizes hospitals and medical clinics that do not administer appropriate initial medical treatments in emergency or serious cases;


WHEREAS, the state auditors also questioned the hospital over drugs and medicines worth ₱12.45 million, and medical, dental, and laboratory supplies worth ₱8.79 million, supposedly purchased between June and December 2012 but which remain unaccounted for;

WHEREAS, establishments such as hospitals, whose business deals with public interest, have a duty to put welfare before profit;

WHEREAS, Congress, through relevant legislation, must put in place mechanisms that ensure patients are provided immediate medical care while ensuring that hospitals are also protected loss of income;

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 Commission on Audit's (COA) report that a number of Quezon Medical Center's patients died without receiving the blood transfusions they needed because they failed to pay laboratory fees immediately.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
RP

/crd