


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



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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1211

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT THAT POSSIBLE CASES OF MIDDLE EAST
RESPIRATORY SYNDROME-CORONAVIRUS (MERS-COV) IN THE PHILIPPINES ARE
INCREASING

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, the *Philippine Star* on 16 February 2015, reported that the Department of Health (DOH) has placed under isolation two more people suspected of being afflicted with the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome-Coronavirus (MERS-CoV);

WHEREAS, Acting Health Secretary Janette Garin reportedly said that two co-passengers of a Filipina nurse, who was confirmed positive for MERS-CoV, are now under isolation in separate hospitals after manifesting symptoms of the potentially deadly infection;

WHEREAS, Garin claimed a person who has a history of travel from the Middle East, had contact with a person confirmed to be infected, and manifested symptoms like fever and diarrhea can be considered a patient under investigation;

WHEREAS, the acting Health chief reportedly added that a patient under investigation can later be considered as a suspect case if there would be clinical findings such as abnormal breathing sounds;

WHEREAS, Garin further reported that 10 of the patients who were previously placed under observation after having contact with the confirmed MERS-CoV case tested negative and have been sent home, but one of the 11 patients is now considered a probable case of MERS-CoV due to the patient's x-ray results;

WHEREAS, the DOH was able to locate 115 of the 220 co-passengers of the Filipina nurse, where 86 out of the 115 tested negative from the infection while the results of the others are still pending;

WHEREAS, Garin said that RITM is now coordinating with the Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital in monitoring the condition of the nurse, who is pregnant;

WHEREAS, authorities must continue to be vigilant in screening people coming from the Middle East for MERS-CoV to ensure public safety;

WHEREAS, the Department of Health must launch a campaign to raise public awareness about MERS-CoV;

WHEREAS, Congress, through relevant legislation, must ensure that the country is ready for the treatment of the deadly disease;

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 possible cases of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome-Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) in the Philippines are increasing.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
RP

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