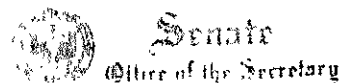


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)



15 OCT -5 P4:20

SENATE
P. S. Res No. 1608

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, REGARDING THE ALARMING INCREASE
OF REPORTED DENGUE CASES IN THE COUNTRY WITH THE END IN VIEW
OF PROPOSING POLICY FOR CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT IN THE
PREVENTION OF THE DISEASE

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides, “The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.”;

WHEREAS, the Department of Health (DOH) recorded 19,946 suspected dengue cases in the first quarter of 2015 which is 6.49% higher than the reported cases for the same period in 2014¹;

WHEREAS, according to the latest report of the DOH’s epidemiology bureau, the region with the highest number of cases is Calabarzon (3,778 cases), followed by Central Luzon (2,732 cases), the National Capital Region (2,628 cases), and Northern Mindanao (2,241 cases)²;

WHEREAS, the above report indicated that Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) recorded the highest increase in the number of cases of dengue at 126.1%, while Eastern Visayas saw the highest decrease at 85.8%³;

WHEREAS, despite the decrease of the reported dengue cases in the Visayas region, the accompanying increase in the ARMM unfortunately tramples the lower incidence of dengue in the Visayas region;

WHEREAS, in early September of this year, the DOH reported that they have recorded 55,079 suspected dengue cases from January 1 to August 8, 2015⁴ and considering the reported dengue cases in the first quarter of 2015, there is a 35,133 increase or more than double of reported dengue cases in our country;

WHEREAS, in late September of this year, the DOH spokesman Lyndon Lee Suy urged the public to eliminate all possible breeding sites of mosquitoes, noting a total of 78,808 people

¹ Rappler Website, <http://www.rappler.com/nation/90221-doh-dengue-cases-first-quarter-2015>

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Rappler Website, <http://www.rappler.com/nation/104736-dengue-cases-january-august-2015>.

across the country were afflicted with dengue from January 1 to September 5. In other words, there is again a drastic increase of reported dengue cases⁵;

WHEREAS, Local Governments Units are expediting efforts to battle dengue in their respective areas. In Cavite, the provincial government declared a state of calamity after it recorded a total of 3,904 cases with 16 fatalities from January to September 12, while the provincial government of Bulacan declared an all-out war against the disease after the number of cases breached the 4,000 mark⁶;

WHEREAS, it is worthy to note that based on the records of the Cavite epidemiology and surveillance unit, of the 16 recorded deaths, seven were in Dasmarinas City; one each in GMA, Indang, Naic, Rosario, Silang, Trece Martirez City and three in General Trias and its health officer George Repique said the figure is 200 percent higher than the number of cases recorded in the same period last year⁷;

WHEREAS, also the provincial health office of Bulacan said that the number of dengue cases has reached 4,033 with 10 deaths as of September 17 and most of the cases were recorded in the City of San Jose del Monte with 562, followed by San Rafael, 373; Sta. Maria, 364; Bustos, 286; San Miguel, 266; Malolos, 251; San Idelfonso, 202; Hagonoy, 191; Pandi, 178; Baliuag, 159; Bulakan, 127; Bocaue, 133; Guiguinto, 118; Plaridel, 108; Balagtas, 108; Calumpit, 108; Marilao, 110; Meycauayan, 100; Angat, 88; Norzagaray, 65; Obando, 35; and Donya Remedios Trinidad, 24⁸;

WHEREAS, earlier reports showed that deaths caused by dengue was less this year compared with 2014, unfortunately the tropical disease dengue has easily caught up and registered 233 deaths;

WHEREAS, a Malacañang Palace official issued a statement that there is a decrease in reported case of dengue in 10 regions mostly in the Visayas and Mindanao regions⁹ and there is no reason to be alarmed because the DOH is closely monitoring the incidence of dengue¹⁰;

WHEREAS, in spite of the decrease in the reported cases of dengue in the said regions it bears emphasis, however, that the disease is creeping in more densely populated areas like Cavite and Bulacan and we do not want the dengue outbreak to reach Metro Manila which is more densely populated considering there is a current water shortage that forces people to maintain water containers as well as more lives are being affected;

WHEREAS, it is important for the DOH to inform the public of the overall state of dengue outbreak in the country in order to fully address the situation and protect the health and lives of the people; and

WHEREAS, the ongoing dengue outbreak warrants an inquiry in aid of legislation to actively prevent further loss of lives.

⁵ Philippine Star Website, <http://www.philstar.com/nation/2015/09/23/1502764/dengue-cases-16.5-doh>.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Philippine Star Website, <http://www.philstar.com/nation/2015/10/05/1507185/palace-dengue-cases-drop-10-regions>.

¹⁰ Manila Bulletin Website, <http://www.mb.com.ph/doh-is-closely-monitoring-incidence-of-dengue-palace/>.

BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the proper Senate Committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, regarding the alarming increase of reported dengue cases in the country with the end in view of proposing policy for continuous improvement in the prevention of the disease.

Adopted,



MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY