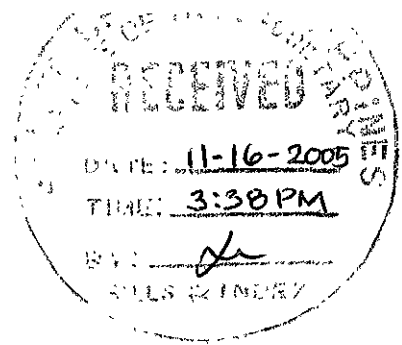


THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



SENATE
P. S. R. No. 376

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY TO
CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION
ON THE INCREASING INCIDENCE OF FILARIASIS

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

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 13, Section 11 also provides that: "The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the under-privileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers";

WHEREAS, filariasis is the second leading cause of permanent disability with no symptoms in its early stages and can only be detected through blood analysis;

WHEREAS, according to Health Secretary Francisco T. Duque III, some 600,000 Filipinos are infected with filariasis and another 25 million are at risk;

WHEREAS, filariasis is endemic in 25 percent of Luzon, 19 percent of Visayas, and 68 percent of Mindanao; the disease is widespread in 36 of 79 provinces in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, filariasis is a parasitic infection transmitted and spread through mosquito carriers that deposit microscopic carriers which, in turn, deposit microscopic eggs of a parasite called "Wachereria bancrofti" into victims' bodies; these eggs incubate in the blood;


WHEREAS, the Department of Health reported that filariasis parasites live inside the lymphatics or the drainage of body fluids for five to 15 years;

WHEREAS, after several months or years of filariasis infection, the following symptoms will surface: recurring fever with chill, headache, inflammation of the underarm, muscle pain and whitish urine;

WHEREAS, if not treated, filariasis infection can cause enlargement of legs and feet (elephantiasis), arms, mammary glands and scrotum, causing permanent disabilities;

WHEREFORE, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the Senate Committee on Health and Demography to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation on the increasing incidence of filariasis.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO