

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

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SENATE  
P.S.R. No. 384

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY TO  
CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE EXPIRATION OF  
P25.47 MILLION WORTH OF MEDICINES AND VACCINES OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

WHEREAS, according to the 2004 Commission on Audit (COA) report, expired vaccines and medicines from the Department of Health (DOH) and the GMA 50 Program amounted to P25.47 million;

WHEREAS, the GMA 50 Program was launched in July 2001 when President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo made a commitment to lower the prices by 50% of drugs and medicines frequently bought by the poor; however, in 33 out of 73 participating hospitals in this program, medicines totaling P7.29 million were found to be either slow-moving, about-to-expire, or expired because information on the availability of these low-cost drugs and medicines was not adequately disseminated to the public;

WHEREAS, P18.8 million worth of these vaccines and medicines expired while in the custody of seven Centers for Health and Development (CHDs) and six public hospitals because the DOH delivered excessive quantities of vaccines and medicines which were about to expire;

WHEREAS, according to Health Secretary Francisco Duque, after delivery to the CHDs, the vaccines were not used because local officials allegedly cut down on the number of their immunization sessions where the vaccines should have been administered;


WHEREAS, the DOH bought the vaccines for its campaigns against measles and polio; on the other hand, the GMA medicines include antibiotics and remedies for hypertension and diabetes;

WHEREAS, the six-month time lag between the procurement and the movement of vaccines and medicines in the DOH system is an anomaly indicating grave inefficiency in the State's health care system if not utter disregard of our country's scarce health resources;

WHEREAS, there is a need to evaluate the existing system of DOH in releasing state-funded medicines and the dissemination of information regarding the availability and accessibility of these essential drugs;

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 expiration of P25.47 million worth of medicines and vaccines of the Department of Health.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
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