


THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION )

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**SENATE**  
P.S. Res. 463

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*Introduced by Senators Cayetano, Flavier,  
Ejercito-Estrada and Magsaysay, Jr.*

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**RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH, CIVIL SERVICE AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE/S TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATE OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION AND THE PLIGHT OF FILIPINO DOCTORS TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE RECENT REPORTS OF THE STATE OF NEAR COLLAPSE OF THE COUNTRY'S HEALTH SYSTEM WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENACTING REMEDIAL LEGISLATION FOR THE PURPOSE**

Whereas, Section 15, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that "[t]he State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them";

Whereas, the said guarantee in the fundamental law is complemented by the mandate that "[t]he 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 underprivileged, sick elderly, disabled, women, and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers." (Article XIII, Section 11);

Whereas, the Supreme Court in a jurisprudence declared the significance of the medical profession as one "directly affecting the very lives of the people, unlike other careers which, for this reason, do not require more vigilant regulation" (Department of Education, Culture and Sports v. San Diego, December 21, 1989);

Whereas, the Philippines has become one of the biggest suppliers of healthcare workers in the world and in fact, per the record of the World Health Organization, the Philippines is the second largest exporter of physicians, next to India and the largest exporter of nursing services;

Whereas, labor migration has never been more felt than now in these times of extreme poverty as Filipino doctors and health practitioners are left with no choice given the lack of opportunities in the country:

Whereas, the exodus of doctors in the last five (5) years for higher paying jobs overseas is resulting to the near collapse of the country's health system as statistics would reveal that the ratio of doctor vis-à-vis the citizens in the country is 1:28,493 (1 doctor for every 28,493 Filipinos);

Whereas, recent studies shows that seventy percent (70 %) of doctors are working abroad and almost eighty five percent (85 %) of the Philippines' health practitioners are already overseas;

Whereas, the continuing diaspora of Filipino doctors can be attributed to their low salaries (in the government, the entry level is a meager Php 12,546.00; in the private sector, the entry level for a physician position is Php 17,069.00);

Whereas, the statistics pertinent to the national percentage of passing in licensure examination for doctors would yield declining professionalization, viz:

Year	Passing Percentage
1999	69.15 %
2000	65.03 %
2001	61.04 %
2002	63.18 %
2003	56.26 %

Whereas, the State has the ultimate responsibility of harnessing its human resources and the obligation of seeing to it that they are not dissipated or no less worse, not use at all and for the purpose, a comprehensive urgent program that addresses economic stability without straining the valued human resources of the nation: Now therefore be it

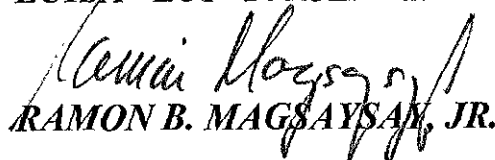
**RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, AS IT HEREBY RESOLVES, TO URGE THE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH, CIVIL SERVICE AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE/S TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATE OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION AND THE PLIGHT OF FILIPINO DOCTORS TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE RECENT REPORTS OF THE STATE OF NEAR COLLAPSE OF THE COUNTRY'S HEALTH SYSTEM WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENACTING REMEDIAL LEGISLATION FOR THE PURPOSE.**

Adopted,

  
**PIA JULIANA "COMPANERA" S. CAYETANO**

  
**JUAN M. FLAVIER**

  
**LUISA "LON" P. EJERCITO-ESTRADA**

  
**RAMON B. MAGSAYSAY, JR.**