

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
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SENATE

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PS RES. NO. 168

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR COMPAÑERA PIA S. CAYETANO

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY TO INQUIRE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATUS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8423 OR THE TRADITIONAL AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE ACT (TAMA) OF 1997

Whereas, Republic Act No. 8423 or the Traditional and Alternative Medicine Act (TAMA) of 1997 was enacted into law on 09 December 1997;

Whereas, TAMA declares that it is the policy of the state to improve the quality and delivery of health care services to the Filipino people through the development of traditional and alternative health care and its integration into the national health care system;

Whereas, TAMA promotes and advocates the use of traditional, alternative, preventive and curative health care system that have been proven safe, effective, cost effective and consistent with government standards on medical practice;

Whereas, the World Health Organization (WHO) reveals that over one-third of the population in developing countries lack access to essential medicines and the provision of safe and effective traditional medicines could become a critical tool to increase access to health care.

Whereas, WHO supports and assists countries to develop national policies on the use, evaluation and regulation of traditional medicines;

Whereas, WHO reports in 2003 that countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America use traditional medicine to help meet some of their primary health care needs;

Whereas, traditional and alternative medicines are cheaper than synthetic medicines;

Whereas, there are about 2,000 medicinal plants in the Philippines which are readily available for the people;

Whereas, given the abundance of medicinal plants in the Philippines, the government must effectively utilize these untapped curative resources that would provide great benefits for the Filipinos;

Whereas, further research and development need to be done because only ten out of 2, 000 medicinal plants in the Philippines are medically approved by the DOH;

Whereas, TAMA created the Philippine Institute of Traditional and Alternative Health Care (PITAHC) to accelerate the development of traditional and alternative health care in the Philippines;

Whereas, PITAHC is a government owned and controlled corporation (GOCC) attached to the Department of Health (DOH) tasked to answer the present needs of the people on health care through the provision and delivery of traditional and alternative health care products, services and technologies;

Whereas, DOH and the Chamber of Herbal Industries of the Philippines, Inc. (CHIPI) admit that TAMA, after almost ten years of enactment, has not been fully implemented yet;

Whereas, there is a need for our people to adopt a healthy lifestyle and be aware of the existence of traditional and alternative medicines which are deemed to be effective and affordable in preventing and healing a wide variety of diseases;

Whereas, with the high cost of medicines, it has been opined that the complete implementation of TAMA would actually not only help in solving the concern in expensive medicines but would also give our people independence from drugs;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Senate of the Philippines direct the Committee on Health and Demography to inquire, in aid of legislation, on the status of the implementation of Republic Act No. 8423 or the Traditional and Alternative Medicine Act of 1997.

Adopted,


COMPANERA PIA S. CAYETANO