


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

SEP 10 2008

SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 323

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN  
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALARMING RISE OF DENGUE CASES IN  
THE COUNTRY

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

WHEREAS, an article in the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* on 25 February 2008, entitled "Rise in RP Dengue Cases Worries Top WHO Official," reported an increasing number of dengue cases in the country in the last two months;

WHEREAS, Dr. Soe Nyunt-U, WHO representative to the Philippines, said that "health officials and communities should win the war against dengue, especially with the mosquito-borne illness now becoming a year round occurrence";

WHEREAS, Dr. Nyunt-U claimed that the WHO is "a bit worried because January and February are usually dry season months and normally, during the dry season, dengue cases go down, but this year, cases are still coming up in Metro Manila and in other cities";

WHEREAS, according to Dr. Eric Tayag, director of the Department of Health's (DOH) National Epidemiology Center, dengue cases in the Philippines went up to an all-time high of 45,350 in 2007; while the 2007 figures were the highest on record since 1992, the number of deaths that year, 416, did not surpass the 1998 record of 514;

WHEREAS, the DOH also reported that 929 dengue cases were recorded in 19 hospitals in Metro Manila last January, with Manila having the highest incidence rate, with 204 cases, Quezon City ranked second with 157, while Caloocan and Pasig cities had 112 and 92 cases, respectively;

WHEREAS, Dr. Nyunt-U, who was assigned to the country starting 2007, stated that "It used to be that the dengue cycle was every three years. But now, it is not anymore true in the case of the Philippines"; he said that although not every dengue case was serious, the significant rise in the number of cases was affecting the population as a whole;

WHEREAS, the DOH said that the dengue situation in the country has become "hyper endemic," meaning four types of virus strains have been plaguing the country since 2004;

WHEREAS, according to the DOH, recent cases of dengue were higher in Central Luzon, Central Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula and Metro Manila;

WHEREAS, the DOH said dengue has become a year-round threat due to rising temperatures and the unpredictable weather that has been bringing rains in the normally dry and warm months of the year;

WHEREAS, the DOH said dengue is an environmental problem, and that community-level interventions have not been successful because they involved exterminating mosquitoes, rather than eggs and larvae;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the alarming rise of dengue cases in the country.

Adopted,

*our* *Miriam Defensor Santiago*  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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