


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



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SENATE
P. S. R. No. **583**

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED ALARMING RISE OF LEPTOSPIROSIS CASES
IN WESTERN VISAYAS

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

WHEREAS, the 24 August 2011 issue of the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* reported that regional officers of the Department of Health (DOH) in Western Visayas were alarmed over a rise in incidents of leptospirosis;

WHEREAS, according to the DOH, there are at least 290 cases of those afflicted with leptospirosis, and 29 deaths so far this year;

WHEREAS, leptospirosis is a potentially deadly disease caused by direct exposure to bacteria found in urine of infected animals, especially rats;

WHEREAS, it was reported that in Western Visayas, Negros Occidental had 66 cases with eight deaths; Capiz had 17 with five deaths; Bacolod City had 19 with one death; Iloilo City had 17 with two deaths; Antique had nine and Guimaras had 4 cases;

WHEREAS, a separate report on Iloilo-based *The Daily Guardian* reportedly said the province of Iloilo topped the leptospirosis chart with 158 cases including 13 deaths;

WHEREAS, DOH regional director for Emerging/Re-emerging Diseases Prevention and Control Dr. Ma. Jocelyn Te reportedly urged the public to avoid wading in floodwaters and wear boots if wading cannot be avoided;

WHEREAS, Iloilo Provincial Administrator Raul Baniyas and Assistant Provincial Health Officer Ma. Socorro Quiñon reportedly tried to dispel the report by *The Daily Guardian* claiming that there is no outbreak or sudden surge of the infection; Quiñon allegedly said that only 12 new cases were reported while those previously infected, as reported since January, have already recovered;

WHEREAS, it is imperative for the government to address the alarming rise of cases of leptospirosis by devising programs which would instill health awareness among Filipinos and encourage them to actively engage in the prevention of the disease, such as by maintaining the cleanliness of their surroundings, and by not wading in flood water;

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 reported alarming rise of leptospirosis cases in Western Visayas.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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