

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 50 RECEIVED BY: *ja*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED LACK OF BARANGAY HEALTH
CENTERS IN THE COUNTRY

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

WHEREAS, Article 2, Section 16 of the same states, "The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature";

WHEREAS, it has been a growing concern that until now dilapidated barangay health centers still exist; worst, there are still areas in the Philippines without barangay health centers at all;

WHEREAS, barangay health centers are supposed to be the immediate destination a resident could rely on to seek medical assistance; however, although ideally there should be one barangay health center for every barangay, there are only 2,374 health centers for 41,995 barangays in the country;

WHEREAS, far flung areas like Talim island in Binangonan, Rizal do not have the benefit of a health center; the nearest health center is a two-hour boat ride away and has been abandoned for ten years; as a result, residents in Talim island do not know where to ask for medical assistance;

WHEREAS, since the implementation of the Local Governemnt Code in 1993, the responsibility of constructing health centers has been transferred from the jurisdiction of the Department of Health to local government units;

WHEREAS, local government units should be mandated to prioritize the construction of barangay health centers for their constituents and ensure that these centers are sufficiently and properly manned, equipped and maintained, instead of the construction of basketball courts, waiting sheds and other structures that are less important;

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 lack of barangay health centers in the country.

Adopted,

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Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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