

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. 51

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 NEED TO CREATE AN ANTI-VENOM BANK IN ALL REGIONAL HOSPITALS IN THE PHILIPPINES

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, the *Philippine Star* in its 16 August 2012 issue reported that zookeeper Ronaldo Aventurado was in critical condition after being bitten by a Philippine cobra outside the Cebu City Zoo;

WHEREAS, it was reported that Cebu City Medical Center (CCMC), where Aventurado was rushed to, was not able to immediately give the patient anti-venom since these were not available in Cebu, or in the Department of Health's office in the region;

WHEREAS, CCMC Chief Dr. Gloria Duterte even allegedly asked help from hospitals in Manila, but failed in her request for vials of anti-venom;

WHEREAS, it was reportedly through Dr. Alica Utlang, chief of the Department of Veterinary Medicine and Fisheries, that doctors of the CCMC learned that the Camiguin General Hospital carried with it eight vials of anti-venom;

WHEREAS, Dr. Utlang claimed that the only way to bring the medicine to Cebu was through courier, which would take at least 24 hours;

WHEREAS, it was reportedly through Jessup Bahinting of Aviatour, a private airline based in Cebu, that the anti-venom was acquired and transported to Cebu from Camiguin in less than 24 hours;

WHEREAS, according to the World Health Organization in its Clinical Management of Snake Bites in the South East Asian Region report, there are no reliable estimates of mortality in the Philippines; however, figures of 200-300 deaths each year have been suggested;

WHEREAS, the same report claimed that only cobras cause fatal envenoming, with their usual victims being rice farmers;

WHEREAS, given that the country is mostly composed of agricultural and rural areas, it is a must that each hospital be required to carry antidotes to various venomous animals found in the Philippines, most especially to cobra venom;

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 need to create an anti-venom bank in all regional hospitals in the Philippines.

Adopted,

miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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