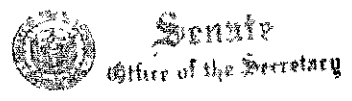


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



13 JUL 15 P4:27

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 56

RECEIVED BY: *ji*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE RECENT SCIENTIFIC FINDINGS ON THE HEALTH
THREATS THAT FACE THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN REGION

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

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 16 provides: "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, Agence France-Presse reported last 25 January 2011 that according to the latest findings from medical research, the Southeast Asian region is facing various health challenges due to the fast pace of demographic changes such as population ageing, fertility decline, and rural to urban migration;

WHEREAS, the medical papers published by *The Lancet Journal*, as cited by the report, warned that the 600 million people in this region who face a health crisis from various health indicators, such as cancer, now account for sixty percent of deaths in the region;

WHEREAS, the report also said that Southeast Asia has become a "hotspot" for emerging and difficult-to-control infectious diseases, with outbreaks in avian flu fuelling fears about the possibility of new pandemics spreading from the region;

WHEREAS, the report said that increased urban population density in the region has created concerns about emerging infectious diseases;

WHEREAS, being one of the most disaster-prone regions in the world and subject to weather phenomena such as El Niño, Southeast Asia experiences intensified the annual variation of the hot and wet climate, leading to droughts, floods and the occurrence of infectious diseases such as malaria and cholera;

WHEREAS, the report added that climate change could exacerbate the spread of emerging infectious diseases in the region, especially vector-borne diseases linked to rises in temperature and rainfall such as dengue;

WHEREAS, deforestation and other human encroachment on wildlife habitats were identified by the report as factors that heighten the potential for germs to cross species barriers, increasing interactions between wildlife, humans, and livestock;

WHEREAS, the paper called for urgent action to tackle Southeast Asia's "epidemic of non-communicable disease", which includes heart disease, stemming from environmental factors promoting tobacco use, unhealthy diet, and inadequate physical activity;

WHEREAS, the paper also called for an improved surveillance of health threats in the region and implied that political tensions within and between Southeast Asian countries have the potential to further hinder control of these threats;

WHEREAS, legislation should take into serious consideration the findings of this paper in improving health services in the country, both in the preventive and curative aspects;

WHEREAS, Congress should look into the paper's proposal of bolstering the intergovernmental cooperation between Southeast Asian countries to find ways to keep these health threats at bay, and to coordinate these efforts with those concerning environmental protection and disaster management and prevention;

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 recent scientific findings on the health threats that face the Southeast Asian region.

Adopted,

cc

MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/ptmt