

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
P.S.R. No. 71

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 GROWING THREAT OF MULTIDRUG-
RESISTANT TUBERCULOSIS IN THE COUNTRY

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

WHEREAS, according to various media reports, the World Health Organization (WHO) is urging Asian countries to take action against the growing threat of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (TB), warning that even more virulent forms of the disease could spread if these countries fail to do so;

WHEREAS, the WHO allegedly said that multidrug-resistant TB resists treatment by at least two of the best anti-TB drugs, and accounts for five percent of nine million new tuberculosis cases worldwide;

WHEREAS, the WHO reported that multidrug-resistant TB is a serious problem in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, the WHO said that the multidrug-resistant TB is caused by mismanagement of standard tuberculosis treatment, and that the spread of this highly contagious is aggravated by mobility, migration, and urban housing;

WHEREAS, an outbreak of extensively drug-resistant TB, which is virtually impossible to treat, allegedly killed 52 people in South Africa in 2005; in China, one out of ten tuberculosis cases are of the multidrug-resistant strain, according to the WHO;

WHEREAS, the WHO allegedly warned that inadequate action against multidrug-resistant TB could result in the spread of "extensively drug-resistant TB," a form of tuberculosis resistant to all of the most effective drugs;

WHEREAS, efforts of the Department of Health to curb the incidence of tuberculosis of the country must be augmented and intensified to counteract the spread of the drug-resistant strain of this highly contagious respiratory disease;

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 growing threat of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis in the country.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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