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SENATE
P.S. Res 217

RECEIVED BY: ji

Introduced by Senator Poe

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE REPORTED CONTINUING RISE IN CHIKUNGUNYA CASES IN THE COUNTRY, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF FORMULATING A LONG-TERM POLICY AIMED AT ADDRESSING THE DISEASE

Whereas, the 1987 Philippine Constitution is crystal clear on the importance of right to health of the citizens, "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them" (Article II, Section 15);

Whereas, in the last eight months, there have been reports of continuing and ascending cases of chikungunya disease in the Philippines;

Whereas, the following information may be significant (as culled from www.wikipedia.org):

- Chikungunya (in the Makonde language "that which bends up") virus (CHIKV) is an arthropod-borne virus, of the genus *Alphavirus*, that is transmitted to humans by virus-carrying *Aedes* mosquitoes. There have been recent breakouts of CHIKV associated with severe illness.
- CHIKV infection causes an illness with symptoms similar to dengue fever, with an acute febrile phase of the illness lasting only two to five days, followed by a prolonged arthralgic disease that affects the joints of the extremities. The pain associated with CHIKV infection of the joints persists for weeks or months, or in some cases years.
- chikungunya had been around in the Philippines in the 1990s, but an increase of number of cases in the last two years have been reported. Many of the cases are in Metro Manila, Laguna, Pangasinan, and parts of Mindanao.
- Accordingly, the proximity of mosquito breeding sites to human habitation is a significant risk factor for Chikungunya.
- The World Health Organization's March 2008 fact sheet said chikungunya is a viral disease spread by mosquitoes that causes fever and severe joint pain.
- The WHO said the disease occurs in Africa, Asia and the Indian subcontinent though it has recently spread to Europe and the Americas.

Whereas, the Department of Health has confirmed that there was an outbreak of Chikungunya disease in at least 10 municipalities in the Philippines in July this year;

Whereas, the affected towns are Kiamba and Maitum in Sarangani; Villareal and Daram in Western Samar; Ma. Aurora in Aurora; Sindangan in Zamboanga del Norte; Sta. Rita in Samar; Concepcion in Romblon; Santiago in Agusan del Norte; and Patnongon in Antique.

Whereas, although no deaths have been recorded with Chikungunya disease, some 2,594 persons had already been affected by the illness from January to June 30 this year;

Whereas, Health officials warned that the disease is a cause of concern especially during the dengue season, as it may cause confusion among doctors as to the medication since the symptoms of Chikungunya are similar to that of dengue;

Whereas, doctors and medical professionals should be trained on proper diagnosis and medication of Chikungunya to avert an outbreak of the disease in other places;

Whereas, there is a need to craft short- and long-term solutions to the disease with the onset of the rainy season and especially that the disease has been reportedly on the rise affecting communities; Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, TO DIRECT THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY AND OTHER PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY INTO THE REPORTED CONTINUING RISE IN CHIKUNGUNYA CASES IN THE COUNTRY, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF FORMULATING A LONG-TERM POLICY AIMED AT ADDRESSING THE DISEASE

Adopted,


GRACE POE