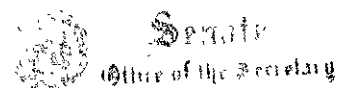


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



13 SEP 11 P5:16

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 247

RECORDED

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE RISE OF REPORTED CASES OF HUMAN
IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS INFECTIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES

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

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* reported in its 28 August 2013 issue that the number of cases of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection in the Philippines is rising, with the rise concentrated among males who have sex with males and people who inject illegal drugs or narcotics, according to the;

WHEREAS, it was reported Ferchito Avelino, executive director of the Philippine National AIDS Council, told the committee on health of the House of Representatives last 27 August 2013 that one Filipino contracts the HIV virus every one hour and 25 minutes, and that there were 449 new reported HIV cases for July of this year alone;

WHEREAS, it was reported that, albeit not of such a scale as to be considered an epidemic among the general population, the spike in the number of HIV cases should be a cause for concern, as expressed by UN Special Envoy on AIDS to the Asia and the Pacific JVR Prasada Rao in the same hearing in the Lower House;

WHEREAS, Rao reportedly said that while the number of HIV cases was not a general epidemic, it could be an epidemic among a population subgroup, and noted that the Philippines was among countries with an increasing number of new infections;

WHEREAS, Rao reportedly said the government needs to spend more resources focusing on the key population that has the most HIV cases, and try to control the epidemic spread;


WHEREAS, the report said that there are about 14,000 identified HIV cases in the country;

WHEREAS, Avelino was quoted in the same article saying there are 70 cities in the Philippines that need to be prioritized when it comes to addressing the rising number of HIV cases, among them the National Capital Region, and the cities of Angeles, Cebu, and Davao;

WHEREAS, although numerous reports have been made over the years of the increasing number HIV infections in the country, the government has yet to definitively address the situation, which may lead to full-blown epidemic if no immediate measures would be taken;

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 rise of reported HIV cases in the Philippines.

Adopted,

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SEN. MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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