



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

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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 308

RECEIVED BY. *js*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE LEPTOSPIROSIS OUTBREAK IN AND AROUND THE
NORTHERN CITY OF OLONGAPO

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 13, Section 11 states that, "The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the under-privileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers";

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* website, in an article entitled "6 dead in Olongapo epidemic caused by leptospirosis" posted on 9 October 2013, reported that the bacterial epidemic caused by water contaminated with rat urine has hit a flood-ravaged region in the northern Philippines, killing six people and overwhelming local hospitals;

WHEREAS, leptospirosis, which in its most serious form is also known as Weil's disease, can eventually lead to kidney failure, requiring dialysis;

WHEREAS, it was reported that at least 132 people were infected with leptospirosis in and around the northern city of Olongapo, following deadly flash floods in the area last month;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the disease can incubate in the human body for up to 30 days before flu-like symptoms appear, even after the floods that struck the area in September 2013 have subsided;

WHEREAS, according to the report, it was likely that many of the patients had ignored early symptoms, or self-medicated believing they had influenza, instead of seeking professional treatment;

WHEREAS, although it was reported that 90 of the infected people who remain in hospital were all likely to survive, local health authorities expect the number of cases to rise as more people seek treatment;

WHEREAS, the health department reportedly said a leptospirosis epidemic in 2009 infected more than 1,000 people, killing 89 in and around Manila, after Tropical Storm Ketsana wrought deadly floods on large areas of the Philippine capital;

WHEREAS, legislation aimed towards prevention and protection of the constituents living in flood-prone areas should be strengthened to ensure the prevention of the spread of leptospirosis infections, the execution of precautionary measures to control or limit the casualties, and the administration of proper antidotes or medicines for leptospirosis;

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 leptospirosis outbreak in and around Olongapo.

Adopted,

our
Miriam Defensor Santiago
SEN. MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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