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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 325

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED INCREASE OF DEATHS
IN CENTRAL MINDANAO THIS YEAR DUE TO RABIES

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 Mindanao* online, in an article entitled "15 rabies deaths recorded in Central Mindanao this year" posted last October 9, 2013 reported that rabies kills, causing the death of 15 persons reported to have been bitten by dogs between January and September of 2013;

WHEREAS, it was reported in the article that, according to the Regional Epidemiology Surveillance Unit (RESU) that covers the provinces of North and South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani, and the cities of General Santos, Tacurong, Koronadal, Cotabato, and Kidapawan, the figure represented a 25 percent increase from the deaths caused by rabies during the same period in 2012;

WHEREAS, the article said that more than half of the reported rabies cases this year were caused by dogs kept at home, which showed that pets could cause rabies just as much as stray animals; most of the victims were aged 10 years and below;

WHEREAS, the report said that while the death toll was not alarming as of yet, the fact that the number of fatal dog bites was increasing was reason enough for the authorities to impose stricter regulations with respect to pet animals, and to intensify the campaign against stray dogs and cats; dog and cat owners should be compelled to have their pets vaccinated;

WHEREAS, a repeated appeal by Dr. Dovia Tabugo, chief of the provincial health office, to residents to immediately seek medical attention in the event of a dog bite, and avail of the services of the Animal Bite Center of the North Cotabato Provincial Hospital in Kidapawan City;

WHEREAS, there is a need for stricter implementation of and refining existing laws to prevent more casualties from rabies infections, ensure the safety and protection of the Filipinos from rabies-prone animal bites, and aid dog/cat owners to prevent the spread of rabies through their pets not only in Mindanao but nationwide;

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 increase of deaths in Central Mindanao due to rabies this year.

Adopted,

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Miriam Defensor Santiago
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