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SENATE  
P. S. Res. No. 658

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Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

**RESOLUTION**  
**DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,**  
**IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED CHOLERA OUTBREAK IN**  
**NORTH COTABATO**

**WHEREAS**, Section 15, Article 2 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them;

**WHEREAS**, a recent cholera outbreak has been reported in the town of Alamada, North Cotabato;

**WHEREAS**, according to reports, as of May 19, 2014, nine (9) residents of Alamada have died of cholera, five (5) adults and four (4) minors. All of the victims have died in their homes and did not make it to the hospital<sup>1</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization (WHO) defines cholera as an acute intestinal infection caused by ingestion of food or water contaminated with the bacterium *Vibrio cholerae* that can quickly lead to severe dehydration and death if treatment is not promptly given<sup>2</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, according to WHO, cholera is one of the key indicators of social development and remains a challenge to countries where access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation cannot be guaranteed;

**WHEREAS**, based on hospital records, more than seventy percent (70%) of the estimated total of 600 patients who experienced diarrhea, vomiting and stomach ache have already been discharged from the hospital<sup>3</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, according to Dr. Mary Joy Posada, chief of Alamada Community Hospital, many patients have been discharged but there are new patients coming in due to diarrhea and stomach ache;

<sup>1</sup> Inquirer.net, Death toll in North Cotabato cholera outbreak climbs to 9, May 19, 2014, <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/603148/death-toll-in-north-cotabato-cholera-outbreak-climbs-to-9>.

<sup>2</sup> World health Organization website, <http://www.who.int/topics/cholera/about/en/>.

<sup>3</sup> Sunstar News Website, North Cotabato diarrhea outbreak contained, <http://www.sunstar.com.ph/breaking-news/2014/05/14/north-cotabato-diarrhea-outbreak-contained-342831>

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**WHEREAS**, according to reports, during the first day of the outbreak there was a shortage of rehydration fluids in Alamada but supplies arrived in time from Cotabato Regional and Medical Center and North Cotabato provincial government<sup>4</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, according to Governor Emmylou Mendoza, holding centers in Barangay Upper Dado Elementary School have been established to avoid overcrowding in the hospital facilities;

**WHEREAS**, a state of calamity has been declared in Alamada to enable the local government to utilize its calamity funds and financial assistance has been given to the families of those who died;

**WHEREAS**, according to health authorities, water contamination is a possible cause of the outbreak;

**WHEREAS**, according to reports, the Department of Health and local sanitary inspectors visited the source of drinking water in Upper Dado and found that plastic pipes emanating from water reservoir were not properly prepared and safety was not a priority among local folks. It was noted that a leaking plastic pipe was repaired with the use of plastics as covers and seal, making it vulnerable to bacteria entering the water tubes and eventually into drinking waters and humans. Also, work animals like carabaos, goats and cows were tied close to the water sources<sup>5</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary for the Philippine government to take immediate action in providing clean and safe water supply, medical supplies, health care professionals and encourage increased coordination with local governments until the town of Alamada is free from the outbreak with due consideration of the other towns in North Cotabato at risk of the outbreak;

**WHEREAS**, it is the duty of the Senate, by policy or law, to secure the supply of clean and safe water supply for all and to strengthen the readiness of health care centers in times of epidemic outbreaks;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE**, as it is hereby resolved to direct the proper Senate Committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reported cholera outbreak in North Cotabato.



**MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY**  
Senator

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<sup>4</sup> GMA News Online, Cotabato diarrhea outbreak contained, officials claim, May 14, 2014, <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/361054/news/regions/cotabato-diarrhea-outbreak-contained-officials-claim>.

<sup>5</sup> Supra [Citation 1]