

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



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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 831

RECEIVED BY: *[Signature]*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT THAT THE EBOLA OUTBREAK DEATH TOLL HAS REACHED 887 ACCORDING TO THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 14 of the Constitution provides: "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them";

WHEREAS, solarnews.ph , in an article posted on 5 August 2014, reported that the World Health Organization (WHO) said that the death toll from the Ebola epidemic in West Africa has now reached 887 after 61 more fatalities recorded;

WHEREAS, the report claimed that Ebola, a form of hemorrhagic fever for which there is no vaccine, causes severe muscular pain, fever, headaches and, in the worst cases, unstoppable bleeding;

WHEREAS, the report alleged that this is the worst Ebola outbreak ever, and that the according to the WHO, 61 deaths that were reported were from Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone;

WHEREAS, the report also said that there has been 163 new cases of people infected with the virus, bringing the total number of confirmed and likely cases from the outbreak to 1,603;

WHEREAS, it was reported that according to the latest WHO tally, which includes both laboratory-confirmed and suspect cases, Guinea saw 13 new cases and 12 deaths, Liberia, 77 new cases and 28 deaths, while Sierra Leone saw 72 new cases and 21 fatalities, and one suspect case was also reported in that time in Nigeria;

WHEREAS, WHO Director General Margaret Chan has reportedly warned that the response of some of the affected countries to the epidemic has been woefully inadequate, and that the outbreak has been moving faster than their efforts to control it;

WHEREAS, it was also reported that the Ebola virus has killed around two-thirds of those it has infected since its emergence in 1976, with two outbreaks registering fatality rates approaching 90 percent;

WHEREAS, the report said that the death rate in the current outbreak is 55 percent;

WHEREAS, it is imperative for the State to institute immediate measures to mitigate a possible Ebola outbreak in the country, as well as strengthen existing legislation based on this epidemic to prepare the country for any impending health threat;

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 report that the Ebola outbreak death toll has reached 887 according to the World Health Organization.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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