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SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 1291

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,  
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT THAT HUMAN INTRUSION ON  
ANIMAL HABITATS MAY LEAD TO AN INCREASE IN INFECTIOUS DISEASES

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

WHEREAS, the *Manila Bulletin* on 11 April 2015 reported that greater human encroachment on the natural habitats of animals has been linked to the significant spike in emerging infectious diseases passed on by animals to humans;

WHEREAS, Department of Health (DOH) spokesperson Lyndon Lee Suy has been quoted in the news as saying that 70 percent of emerging infectious diseases today are zoonotic, which means they are traced back to animals;

WHEREAS, reportedly among the more common zoonotic disease are rabies from dogs; leptospirosis from rodents; severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) from civet cat or musang; Middle East respiratory syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) from camels and bats; and Ebola from monkeys;

WHEREAS, Suy claimed that people are increasingly occupying more space and displacing more animals, citing as an example how more resorts and other buildings are being constructed in forests;

1           WHEREAS, the *Bulletin* also quoted the World Health Organization (WHO) as  
2 saying that zoonotic diseases represent a significant public health threat that is usually not  
3 prioritized by health systems at national levels.

4           WHEREAS, WHO revealed that every year, millions of people get sick because of  
5 food-borne zoonoses such as salmonellosis and campylobacteriosis which cause fever,  
6 diarrhea, abdominal pain, malaise, and nausea;

7           WHEREAS, other bacterial zoonoses are anthrax, brucellosis, infection by verotoxigenic  
8 *Escherichia coli*, leptospirosis, plague, Q fever, shigellosis, and tularaemia;

9           WHEREAS, Congress must ensure that environmental legislation take cognizance  
10 of zoonotic diseases;

11           WHEREAS, the government must put in place programs to prevent the occurrence  
12 of zoonotic diseases, intensify research on such, and improve public awareness;

13           WHEREAS, it is also imperative for the government to mitigate the negative  
14 impact of human activity and demographic development, especially the displacement of  
15 animals from their natural habitats;

16           WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE  
17 to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the  
18 report that human intrusion on animal habitats may lead to an increase in infectious  
19 diseases.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
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