



Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

REC'D 7/29/19

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED 18 BILLION PESOS WORTH OF UNDISTRIBUTED MEDICINES STOCKED IN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WAREHOUSES WITH THE END IN VIEW OF IMPROVING THE INVENTORY MANAGEMENT AND PROCUREMENT PLANNING OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

WHEREAS, according to the annual audit report conducted by Commission on Audit (COA) on the Department of Health (DOH), state auditors found that the amount of overstocked drugs and medicines has not only increased to P18.4 billion but also increased for the third straight year in 2018¹;

WHEREAS, from P10 billion in 2015, the amount of overstocked drugs and medicines increased to P11.3 billion in 2016; P16 billion in 2017; and, P18.4 billion in 2018²;

WHEREAS, the COA said, the scenario of constantly increasing the balance of drugs and medicine for distribution in DOH warehouses precluded the immediate provision of quality health service to the intended beneficiaries of the different DOH health programs and is also reflective of ineffective inventory management of the agency³;

WHEREAS, the COA added that the DOH defied the World Health Organization, which recommended that storage level should be based on an average time of distribution of six to nine months⁴;

WHEREAS, on the same report, the DOH has not yet distributed around 367.1 million pesos worth of drugs and medicines already nearing its expiration dates⁵;

¹ GMA News Website, DOH has overstocked drugs, medicines worth P18 billion — COA, <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/702237/doh-has-overstocked-drugs-medicines-worth-p18-million/story/>

² Ibid.

³ Philstar News Website, COA flags DOH over poor distribution of medicine, <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2019/07/25/1937710/coa-flags-doh-over-poor-distribution-medicine>

⁴ CNN Philippines News Website, COA: P18-B worth of undistributed medicine stocked in DOH warehouses, <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2019/7/25/COA-DOH-medicine-warehouse.html>

⁵ Inquirer News Website, DOH hasn't distributed expiring vaccines, diabetes drugs — COA, <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1145874/doh-hasnt-distributed-expiring-vaccines-diabetes-drugs-coa>

WHEREAS, some of the medicines include various micronutrient powders worth P138 million, which will expire around April to December 2019; vaccines for Japanese encephalitis (P39.04 million, expired last May 2019); and metformin, a drug used to treat type 2 diabetes and polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) (P27.20 million, to expire in September to December 2019)⁶;

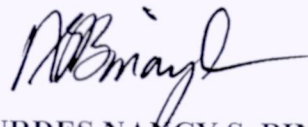
WHEREAS, the state audit agency further stated that the existence of expired and nearly expired inventory items does not only deprive the marginalized people to avail of the intended or needed benefits to be provided but may also further result to wastage of the meager funds of the government⁷;

WHEREAS, an assessment and review would enable the Department of health to improve the delivery of services to the Filipino people;

WHEREAS, Congress, in consultation with the Department of Health and other concerned agencies should review the governmental processes involved in the procurement and inventory of drugs and medicines, and determine possible solutions to the inefficiency on the stockpiling of drugs and medicines;

BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED to direct the appropriate Senate committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reported 18 billion pesos worth of undistributed medicines stocked in Department of Health warehouses with the end in view of improving the inventory management and procurement planning of the Department of Health.

Adopted,



MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY
Senator

⁶ Inquirer News Website, DOH hasn't distributed expiring vaccines, diabetes drugs — COA, <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1145874/doh-hasnt-distributed-expiring-vaccines-diabetes-drugs-coa>

⁷ CNN Philippines News Website, COA: P18-B worth of undistributed medicine stocked in DOH warehouses, <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2019/7/25/COA-DOH-medicine-warehouse.html>