




SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 53

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Introduced by SENATOR SONNY ANGARA

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RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE RECENT REPORTS OF ALLEGED UNDISTRIBUTED AND UNUTILIZED DRUGS AND MEDICINES BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH) WITH THE END IN VIEW OF INSTITUTING REFORMS WITHIN THE AGENCY AS TO THE PROPER MANAGEMENT AND DISPERSAL OF PROCURED DRUGS AND MEDICINES

1 WHEREAS, the 2018 Commission on Audit (COA) report revealed that – from
2 CY 2015 up to CY 2018 – the Department of Health (DOH) has accumulated drugs
3 and medicines amounting to a total of ₱18.4B, which are still for distribution and
4 inside DOH warehouses, with close to ₱300M or 2% of the overall stock already
5 nearing expiry as of January 31, 2019;

6 WHEREAS, in total, the Commission found that of the ₱367M worth of drugs
7 and medicines nearing its expiration date, about 97% were procured by the DOH
8 Central Office and the remaining 3% were procured by the Centers for Health
9 Development (CHDs)/Hospitals;

10 WHEREAS, the same COA report also discovered that over ₱30M worth of
11 drugs and medicines that were distributed to various CHDs/Hospitals/Treatment for
12 Rehabilitation Centers (TRCs) have already expired, thereby not only making the
13 potency and maximum effectiveness of these items questionable at best and risky at
14 worst, but has also dealt a great blow to many Filipinos who do not have enough
15 money to purchase their needed medicines;

16 WHEREAS, while the DOH reported that it has been quick to resolve the
17 problem of the supposed overstock as the distribution of the items is currently being

1 prioritized according to the department's statement, there is still a need for the
2 agency to provide a reasonable explanation as to why over ₱367M worth of drugs
3 and medicines are still pending distribution and why around ₱30M worth of drugs
4 and medicines distributed to its beneficiaries were already expired in order to
5 determine if there is a mismatch between the items procured and the actual
6 requirements of the population;

7 WHEREAS, this comes as an alarming update especially since the full
8 implementation of Republic Act No. 11223 or the Universal Health Care (UHC) Act is
9 currently underway, hence more public funds – including the additional revenue
10 from the recently-enacted Republic Act No. 11346 which increased the excise tax on
11 tobacco products and imposed excise taxes on heated tobacco products (HTPs) and
12 vapor products – will be injected into both PhilHealth and DOH;

13 WHEREAS, with the incoming funds, there is a need for the department to
14 display a greater sense of fiscal responsibility through the establishment of
15 heightened monitoring and implementation systems so as not to delay the delivery
16 of health services to the Filipinos;

17 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Senate of the Philippines direct
18 the appropriate Senate committee to conduct an investigation in aid of legislation on
19 the recent reports of alleged undistributed and unutilized drugs and medicines by
20 the Department of Health (DOH) with the end in view of instituting reforms within
21 the agency as to the proper management and dispersal of procured drugs and
22 medicines.

Adopted,



SONNY ANGARA