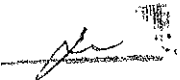


THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

5 DEC 12 P 3:06

SENATE
P. S. R. No 403

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY TO
CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,
ON THE APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS TO PREPARE FOR THE
IMMINENT AVIAN FLU PANDEMIC

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

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 13, Section 11 also states that. "The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the under-privileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers",

WHEREAS, according the World Health Organization, avian influenza is an infectious disease of birds caused by type A strains of the influenza virus, all birds are susceptible to contract avian influenza, although some species are more resistant to the infection than others,

WHEREAS, while the avian influenza viruses do not normally infect species other than birds and pigs, it can be transmitted to humans; the first documented infection of humans with an avian influenza virus occurred in Hong Kong in 1997, where an epidemic of highly pathogenic avian influenza caused severe respiratory disease in 18 humans,

WHEREAS, extensive investigation of that outbreak determined that close contact with live infected poultry was the source of human infection; studies at the genetic level further determined that the virus had jumped directly from birds to humans;

WHEREAS, symptoms of bird flu in humans have ranged from typical flu-like symptoms such as fever, cough, sore throat and muscle aches to eye infections, pneumonia, severe respiratory diseases, and other severe and life-threatening complications,

WHEREAS, since 2003, more than 60 people in Asia have died, and more than 150 million chickens and ducks have died from the virus or have been slaughtered;

WHEREAS, while the Philippines remains as the only country in the region that is not affected by the deadly strain of influenza, Health Secretary Francisco Duque warned that it is just a matter of time before avian influenza reaches the Philippines;

WHEREAS, it is the duty of the government to intensify its efforts on preparing for the possible outbreak of the avian influenza virus, it is also crucial to establish inter-agency committees both from the government and the private sector to effectively combat the adverse effects of the deadly virus,

WHEREFORE, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the Senate Committee on Health and Demography to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation on the appropriate government programs to prepare for the imminent avian flu pandemic

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
agb

/dpm