

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

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SENATE
Resolution No. 272

RECEIVED BY: [Signature]

Introduced by Senator M. A. Madrigal

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY AND CULTURAL COMMUNITIES TO CONDUCT A JOINT INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE SPATE OF MALARIA-INFESTED INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES IN THE PROVINCE OF PALAWAN

WHEREAS, the island of Palawan is often described as the last natural frontier in the Philippines, as it contains some of the country's largest remaining areas of primary rain forest and some of its more intact and diverse coral reef systems;

WHEREAS, Palawan has an abundance of unique flora and fauna and accounts for a significant portion of the biological resources of the Philippines;

WHEREAS, Palawan is also home to a complex mosaic of indigenous peoples whose territories, natural resources, and cultures face growing threats from legal and illegal destructive logging and fishing practices, mining activities, and the rapid encroachment of immigrants from neighboring islands;

WHEREAS, Palawan's area is generally hilly and mountainous, highly forested, and with plenty of traversing rivers and creeks;

WHEREAS, the geographical conditions of Palawan makes it prone to a high mortality and morbidity rate in terms of malarial infection;

WHEREAS, Taut Bato area in the town of Rizal in Palawan has been recently struck by new outbreaks of the malarial disease especially in the ancestral domains of its indigenous communities where doctors and access to health facilities are remote;

WHEREAS, Section 21, CHAPTER V of the Republic Act No. 8371, otherwise known as the Indigenous People's Rights Act (IPRA), provides that consistent with the equal protection clause of the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines, the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights including the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and International Human Rights Law, the State shall, with due

recognition of their distinct characteristics and identity accord to the members of the ICCs/IPs the rights, protections and privileges enjoyed by the rest of the citizenry. It shall extend to them the same employment rights, opportunities, basic services, educational and other rights and privileges available to every member of the society;

WHEREAS, Section 22, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states that the State recognizes and promotes the rights of indigenous cultural communities within the framework of national unity and development;

WHEREAS, Section 15, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution also provides that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them;

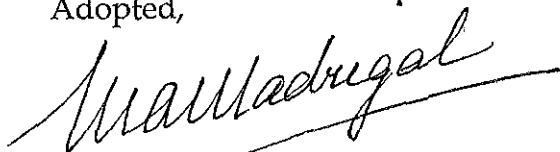
WHEREAS, Section 11, Article XIII of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states that the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost;

WHEREAS, the budget of the Department of Health for disease prevention and control specifically addressing malaria under the General Appropriations Act 2005 is Php 3,400,000 Million;

WHEREAS, with the spate of malaria-caused deaths in the indigenous communities of Palawan, there is a need to address the issue of basic social services reaching the remote ancestral domains of our indigenous brothers and sisters;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, directing the Committees on Health and Demography, Cultural Communities, Local Government, and Finance to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the spate of malaria-infested indigenous communities in the Province of Palawan.

Adopted,



M. A. MADRIGAL