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SENATE

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR PIA S. CAYETANO

A RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY TO INQUIRE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATUS OF THE PHILIPPINES IN ATTAINING THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS SPECIFICALLY ON REDUCING CHILD MORTALITY, IMPROVING MATERNAL HEALTH, AND ERADICATING HIV/AIDS, MALARIA, AND OTHER DISEASES

Whereas, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are a set of eight time-bound, concrete and specific targets aimed at significantly reducing, if not decisively eradicating poverty, by the year 2015;

Whereas, the Philippines is one of the signatories of the UN Millennium Declaration which enumerates the eight MDGs namely the 1) eradication of extreme poverty 2) achieving universal access to primary education 3) promoting gender equality 4) reducing child mortality 5) improving women's reproductive health 6) combating HIV-AIDS, malaria and other diseases 7) ensuring environmental sustainability and 8) developing a global partnership for development;

Whereas, commitments to achieve the MDGs by 2015 reflect the vision of entire nations working together with international and country-based organizations to wipe out poverty and the worst forms of human deprivation, and lay the foundations for sustainable human development by the year 2015;

Whereas, MDG 4 is to reduce child mortality by cutting the under-five mortality rate by two-thirds by 2015;

Whereas, the child mortality rate of the Philippines was estimated at 19 deaths per 1,000 live births between 1988 and 1992 and went down to 12 per 1,000 live births thereafter and remained at that level between 1999 and 2003, and that the most common causes of child deaths are pneumonia, accidents, and diarrhea;

Whereas, even if the figures significantly went down through the years, the child mortality rate of the Philippines is still high compared with other Asian neighbors such as Singapore and Malaysia;

Whereas, MDG 5 is to improve maternal health by reducing maternal mortality by three-quarters and achieve universal access to reproductive health service by 2015;

Whereas, maternal mortality is a litmus test of the status of women in their countries, their access to health care and the adequacy of the country's health care system's response to their needs;

Whereas, there is a need to improve maternal mortality in the Philippines since according to the United Nations Population Fund (UNPFA) there is at least ten Filipino

mothers who die everyday while giving birth and that the 162 per 100,000 live births maternal mortality rate of the Philippines is relatively high compared with other developing countries such as Thailand and Malaysia;

Whereas, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), many mothers die because of inadequate prenatal and postnatal care – either because they did not have access to, or could not afford, these services– or simply because they lacked the proper information;

Whereas, MDG 6 is to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases by halting and reversing the incidence and spread of such diseases by 2015;

Whereas, according to the DOH, as of January 2006, there were a total of 2,429 reported cases of HIV Ab Seropositives since the Department started collecting data in 1984; 886 of these involved women and that sexual contact is the most common mode of HIV/AIDS transmission;

Whereas, despite the apparent and slow progression of the HIV epidemic in the country, it is still a major public health concern because a single case can grow into hundreds and even thousands due to an increasing rate of risk behaviors and fertile socio-cultural milieu;

Whereas, factors such as limited funding for health services, armed conflict and a high HIV burden have contributed to stagnating or deteriorating progress in maternal, newborn and child survival;

Whereas, the 2008 “Countdown to 2015 for Maternal, Newborn and Child Survival,” which is a collaborative effort of individuals and institutions which tracks progress towards the achievement of the MDGs 4 and 5 to reduce child and maternal mortality, was launched in the 118th General Assembly of the Inter Parliamentary Union in Cape Town, South Africa to mobilize Parliamentarians from both developing and developed countries in support of policies to reduce preventable maternal, newborn and child deaths in developing countries;

Whereas, one of the keys to saving the lives of women and their newborns is access to reproductive healthcare, including contraception to enable them to control the number and spacing of their children;

Whereas, according to the Commission on Population (POPCOM), more than 17% or 2.15 million married Filipino women have unmet need for family planning and most of them do not want additional children or want to postpone pregnancy but are not using any method of family planning;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Senate Committee on Health and Demography inquire, in aid of legislation, on the status of the Philippines in attaining the Millennium Development Goals specifically the reduction of child mortality, improvement of maternal mortality and eradication of HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases, and the steps and programs of the government towards the attainment of these goals.

Adopted,


PIA S. CAYETANO