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SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 766

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Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY, AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES IN THE SENATE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE REPORTED CHOLERA OUTBREAK WHICH HAS AFFECTED MORE THAN 900 RESIDENTS IN 8 BARANGAYS IN TAGOLOAN, MISAMIS ORIENTAL, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF PROVIDING THE NECESSARY AND TIMELY INTERVENTIONS THAT WILL PROTECT THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC

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WHEREAS, the protection of public health is a paramount policy issue especially as this principle echoes the constitutional mandate of the State to protect the health of its citizens and to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential health services available to all the people;

WHEREAS, last November 18, 2008, the Department of Health (DOH) of Northern Mindanao has reported that more than 900 people from 8 barangays in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental were affected by the the vibrio cholerae bacteria and were admitted at the Rural Health Unit in the town of Tagoloan thereby flooding the small facility with sick people;

WHEREAS, reports further indicate that two (2) residents of Tagoloan have already died due to complications brought about by the vibrio cholerae bacteria;

WHEREAS, the affected barangays are Poblacion, Baluarte, Sugbongcogon, Bogoac, Sta Cruz, Casinglot, Mohon, and Sihayon;

WHEREAS, the symptoms of cholera are the sudden onset of frequent painless watery stools, vomiting, rapid dehydration, sunken eyeballs and wrinkled and dry skin. Complications of the illness include high fever, rapid loss of body fluids, dehydration, and shock. Watery stools and vomiting make cholera dangerous because they cause sudden dehydration. Death can result within hours if the illness is left untreated;

WHEREAS, an advisory issued by the Department of Health (DOH) indicate that a person may get cholera by drinking water or eating food contaminated with the cholera bacterium. In an epidemic, the source of the contamination is usually the feces of an infected person. The disease can spread rapidly in areas with inadequate treatment of sewage and drinking water.

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to address the cholera problem in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental in order to save lives and protect the health and welfare of the people in the affected areas;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to look whether there are sufficient regulations and mandate for the Department of Health (DOH) in immediately and effectively addressing serious outbreak situations in the country.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as it is hereby resolved to direct the Senate Committee on Health and Demography, and other appropriate Committees in the Senate to conduct an inquiry, *In Aid of Legislation*, into the reported cholera outbreak which has affected more than 900 residents in 8 barangays in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental, with the end in view of providing the necessary and timely interventions that will protect the health and welfare of the general public.

ADOPTED,


MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator 