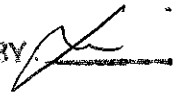


FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 SEP 29 P5:03

SENATE
P.S. RES. NO. 219

RECEIVED BY 

Introduced by Senator Manny B. Villar

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PREPAREDNESS OF THE GOVERNMENT, PARTICULARLY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, TO THWART THE OCCURRENCE OF NEW DELHI METALLO- β -LACTAMASE-1 (NDM-1) IN THE COUNTRY AND TO CONTAIN AND MINIMIZE THE HEALTH RISK IT MAY CAUSE TO THE CITIZENS.

Whereas, the 1987 Constitution states that "[t]he State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them (Article II, Section 15);"

Whereas, in a study made by British medical journal, Lancet Infectious Diseases, it reported the existence of a drug-resistant "superbug" named New Delhi metallo- β -lactamase-1, or NDM-1 for short;

Whereas, NDM-1 is believed to have started in India and in Pakistan when Europeans who have undergone hospitalization, particularly cosmetic surgery, in the Indian subcontinent have brought NDM-1 back to Europe;

Whereas, NDM-1, is a gene so far carried by bacteria E.coli and Klebsiella pneumonia, the former being a known gut bacterium and the latter known to invade lungs, in which both bacteria, however, can cause urinary tract infections and blood poisoning;

Whereas, when carried by the above bacteria, it makes the strain resistant to carbapenem antibiotics which concerns the medical society since the said antibiotic is one of the most powerful drug available in the market used as last resort for hard-to-treat infections that evade other drugs;

Whereas, a bacterium carrying the NDM-1 gene enables the bacterium produce an enzyme which neutralizes the activity of carbapenem antibiotics;

Whereas, due to its resistance to powerful antibiotics, NDM-1 can easily now jump from one strain of bacteria to another which could produce dangerous infections that would spread rapidly from person to person and be almost impossible to treat;

Whereas, NDM-1 can be transmitted by the transmission of the bacteria that carries it through the old-fashioned way i.e. through food preparation, bodily contact and especially hospital procedures;

Whereas, NDM-1 is already widespread in the Indian subcontinent and has also reached other countries including the US, Canada, Australia and the Netherlands;

Whereas, scientists believe it has the potential to become a global public health issue;

Whereas, considering that there is no available drug yet to combat the gene or the bacteria that carry it, experts say that the way to minimize, if not stop, it is through surveillance, rapid identification and isolation of any hospital patients who are infected;

Whereas, we have Overseas Filipino workers who are found in almost all countries who frequently return to the Philippines and that our country is a destination of tourist foreigners whose countries have documented NDM-1 infection;

Whereas, considering its ease of transmission, it is very likely that the Philippines will fall prey from this superbug wherein it can cause widespread health risk to our citizens;

Whereas, the Philippines has been host to other grave diseases such as Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and A-H1N1 flu which were likewise transmitted from foreigners and Filipinos alike entering our shores;

Whereas, during the outbreak of these diseases, the country was barely ready to tackle them;

Whereas, due to the potential risk to our citizens, it is necessary to determine whether the Department of Health (DOH) is prepared to combat the said disease;

Whereas, considering that the Philippines has fallen prey to these dreaded diseases a number of times and is usually caught off guard in tackling them, it is necessary that the DOH create, not just a band aid solution, but a long term program that would enable the country to ward off these harmful diseases and prevent the same from entering our country and cause an unprecedented disaster;

RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the Committee on Health and Demography to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the preparedness of the government, particularly the Department of Health, to thwart the occurrence of New Delhi metallo- β -lactamase-1 (NDM-1) in the country and to contain and minimize the health risk it may cause to the citizens.

Adopted,


Manny Villar