

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



11 MAY 19 P2:36

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 481

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE NEED TO CREATE GUIDELINES IN THE SELECTION OF BENEFICIARIES FOR FINANCIAL AID BY THE PHILIPPINE CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES OFFICE DUE TO THE REPORTED REJECTION OF PREVIOUS GUARANTEES BECAUSE OF THEIR DIRE HEALTH SITUATION

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, it was reported by the *Manila Bulletin* last 4 May 2011 that 31 kidney transplant patients died after officials of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office withdrew the financial assistance previously approved for the patients;

WHEREAS, it was alleged that former Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office Chairman Manuel Morato blames now PCSO chairman Margie Juico for the deaths of the kidney transplant patients; he also claimed that Juico denied his requests for financial aid for poor patients suffering from Stage 4 cancer;

WHEREAS, the report stated that according to Morato, Juico did not want the PCSO to provide financial aid to the cancer patients because they were going to die anyway;

WHEREAS, it was also reported that at the National Kidney Transplant Institute (NKTII), a number of dialysis patients who were previously recipients of guarantee letters for medical treatment by PCSO have also died because of the hospital started rejecting the guarantees since last year allegedly because the PCSO arrears have reached a level that has made it impossible for NKTII to cover;

WHEREAS, an official of the PCSO admitted that the state-owned lottery agency has embarked on cost-cutting measures in view of its still precarious financial condition despite taking a windfall profit in last year’s biggest lotto draw that offered over P700 million for the jackpot prize;

WHEREAS, Morato also reportedly said that the incumbent PCSO board has been scrimping on the charity funds, usually denying appeals for assistance for medical expenses that are over P20,000; instead, the PCSO would only offer P5,000, P10,000, and maximum of P20,000 to very sick people, resulting in the deaths of hundreds of people;

WHEREAS, the PCSO is the principal source of the President’s social fund and handles billions of pesos in charity funds that are distributed to people in distress, usually for medical assistance;

WHEREAS, the PCSO should ensure that as a charitable institution, it should be able to accommodate the widest range of patients, and should not renege on their word as a guarantor to

finance the medical bills of those who come to them for help, even if the guarantees are about to die;

WHEREAS, the legislature should create measures that will ensure equal access to financial aid by those suffering from health ailments or by those who have debilitating health conditions;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the need to create guidelines in the selection of beneficiaries for financial aid by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office due to the reported rejection of previous guarantees because of their dire health situation.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/mant