

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

Office of the Secretary
12 MAY 31 P1:59

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 791 *Per*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED IMMINENT SMOKING EPIDEMIC IN THE
COUNTRY

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 15 of the same provides: "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them";

WHEREAS, the *Manila Bulletin* reported last 19 May 2012 that the Department of Health (DOH) called for the public's attention over what it described as an imminent "smoking epidemic" in the country;

WHEREAS, the report cited studies from the World Health Survey and Social Weather Station pointing out an increase of smoking prevalence among adult Filipinos from 23.6 percent in 2003 to 27.7 percent in 2007, and the Global Adult Tobacco Survey found out that cigarette use had spread to 28.3 percent of the population in 2009;

WHEREAS, the studies also showed that smoking prevalence among teenaged Filipinos rose by from 19.6 percent in 2003 to 27.3 percent in 2007, while recent estimates of the National Youth Commission point out a rate as high as 38.2 percent in 2011;

WHEREAS, DOH officials noted that smoking prevalence among Filipinos has intensified despite the passage of the sin tax in 2004, citing it as defective because it failed to fulfill its objective of curbing tobacco consumption in the country, including lessening both the government's healthcare expenses and economic losses from smoking-related diseases;

WHEREAS, Congress should consider revisiting and possibly amending the current laws on the tobacco trade to address this alarming development concerning public health;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate to direct the proper Senate committees, to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the reported imminent smoking epidemic in the country.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
adv

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