

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED NEED TO ADDRESS THE RISE OF PREMATURE
BIRTHS AND PRETERM DEATHS IN THE PHILIPPINES

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, various media reported that according to a report by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Philippines is among the countries with the most number of premature births;

WHEREAS, the UNICEF reported that the country was ranked 8th out of the 184 countries in terms of number of premature births; this means that out of the 2.3 million births in the Philippines in 2010, a total of 348,900 were premature deliveries;

WHEREAS, the report claimed that the figures translate to a premature birth of 14.9 percent, the 12th highest in the world;

WHEREAS, according to the report, it is even more alarming that 14,200 of those born prematurely die due to complications, which makes the Philippines the 14th country globally with the highest death rate due to problems arising from preterm births;

WHEREAS, the report noted that most premature infants born in the Philippines are "late preterm babies" born between 32 and 37 weeks of pregnancy and thus have a good chance of survivals if the basic, low cost interventions are in place;

WHEREAS, to lower the incidence of premature births and preterm deaths, it is imperative for the State to provide appropriate health mechanisms in each barangay to oversee the health of pregnant women in that area;

WHEREAS, State health workers should also be mandated to become more active in providing information and resources to pregnant women in order to prevent premature births and preterm deaths;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reported need to address the rise of premature births and preterm deaths in the Philippines.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
acc'