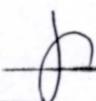




SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

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SENATE
P. S. Res No. 136

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

**RESOLUTION CALLING ON CONGRESS, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,
NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS FOR URGENT
AND COORDINATED ACTION AGAINST THE SPREAD OF ZIKA VIRUS**

WHEREAS, it was reported that the Department of Health (DOH) has confirmed the 6th Zika virus infection in the country¹;

WHEREAS, according to the DOH, the latest victim is a 45-year old woman from Iloilo City who has no record of travel to countries where the virus has been detected²;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the first case of Zika virus in the Philippines was recorded in 2012 in Cebu and the four subsequent cases were foreigners³;

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared Zika virus outbreak as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern;

WHEREAS, according to WHO, Zika virus is primarily transmitted to people through the bite of an infected mosquito from the Aedes genus, mainly Aedes aegypti in tropical regions. This is the same mosquito that transmits dengue, chikungunya and yellow fever. Other possible modes of transmission include sexual transmission and blood transfusion⁴;

WHEREAS, the infection with Zika virus may be suspected based on symptoms and recent history of travel, particularly, residence in or travel to an area with active Zika virus transmission. A diagnosis of Zika virus infection can only be confirmed through laboratory tests on blood or other body fluids, such as urine, saliva or semen⁵;

WHEREAS, outbreaks of Zika virus disease have been recorded in Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific⁶;

¹The Philippine Star, 6th Zika case confirmed in Philippines, September 5, 2016, <http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2016/09/05/1620709/sixth-zika-case-confirmed-philippines>.

²Ibid.

³Reuters, Philippines confirms first case of Zika virus this year: ministry, September 5, 2016, <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-zika-philippines-idUSKCN11B1D9>.

⁴World Health Organization, Zika Virus, <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/zika/en/>.

⁵Ibid.

⁶Ibid.

WHEREAS, the rise in the spread of Zika virus in Brazil has been accompanied by an unprecedented rise in the number of children being born with unusually small heads—identified as microcephaly. In addition, several countries, including Brazil, reported a steep increase in Guillain-Barré syndrome—a neurological disorder that could lead to paralysis and death. Based on research, there is scientific consensus that Zika virus is a cause of microcephaly and Guillain-Barré syndrome⁷;

WHEREAS, according to news reports, Zika cases in Singapore have gone from zero to 258 in a period of one week⁸;

WHEREAS, in the latest WHO Zika virus situation report dated September 8, 2016⁹:

1. Malaysia, which previously reported Zika infections in 2014, has reported new mosquito-borne Zika virus infections in the past week;
2. The results from the sequencing analysis of Zika virus cases in Singapore indicate that the virus belongs to the Asian lineage and likely evolved from the strain that was previously circulating in Southeast Asia. The recent cases in Singapore do not appear to be the result of imported virus from South America; and
3. The Philippines is listed as Category 2-country. Category 2 countries are those with possible endemic transmission or evidence of local mosquito-borne Zika infections in 2016;

WHEREAS, it is the duty of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people;

WHEREAS, there is an imminent threat of local and cross-border transmission of Zika virus infection in the country that calls for urgent and coordinated action from Congress, the DOH, National Government and Local Government Units to adopt an action plan to prevent the spread of Zika virus, enhance early detection and monitoring of Zika virus, and increase awareness on Zika virus through Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaigns.

BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Senate call on Congress, Department of Health, National Government and Local Government Units for urgent and coordinated action against the spread of Zika virus.

Adopted,


MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY

⁷World Health Organization, Zika virus and complications: Questions and answers, <http://www.who.int/features/qa/zika/en/>.

⁸ CNN, Singapore's Zika cases send warning signal to Asia, September 5, 2016, <http://edition.cnn.com/2016/09/05/health/zika-asia-threat/>.

⁹ World Health Organization, Zika situation report, 8 September 2016, <http://www.who.int/emergencies/zika-virus/situation-report/8-september-2016/en/>.