



SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

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SENATE
P.S. Resolution No. 321

RECEIVED BY: JS

Introduced by **Senator Richard J. Gordon**

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND
SINCERE CONDOLENCE OF THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES
ON THE DEATH OF DR. DREYFUSS PERLAS,
A HUMANITARIAN DOCTOR

WHEREAS, our country is already suffering from a shortage of doctors, especially in the poor and remote barrios, that six out of ten Filipinos die without seeing a doctor. This, despite the fact that the 1987 Constitution mandates that the State shall endeavor to make essential goods, health, and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. The government is mandated to provide free medical care to paupers.

WHEREAS, endeavoring to comply with the constitutional requirement, the Department of Health (DOH) has launched the Doctors to the Barrios (DTTB) program in the 1990s to ensure that medical care reaches even the remotest area in the country. Under this program, the DOH sends doctors to depressed, unserved or underserved, hard to reach and critical fifth and sixth class municipalities without doctors or third and fourth class municipalities needing additional doctors.

WHEREAS, because of the dearth of doctors, the DOH is already having a hard time finding doctors willing to serve in remote areas and attend to the medical needs of unserved citizens, that Filipino doctors volunteering their services by joining the DTTB program and medical missions conducted by other non-government organizations deserve commendation for their humanitarian efforts.

WHEREAS, Dr. Dreyfuss Perlas, a kind-hearted and dedicated doctor, chose to volunteer to the Doctors to the Barrios program when he was required to render two years of government service after earning his medical degree from the Western Visayas State University in Iloilo City in 2011 as a scholar of the DOH.

WHEREAS, volunteers of the DTTB program, are required to stay in their assigned areas for two years. Dr. Perlas was assigned from 2012 to 2014 to Sapad, a poor municipality in Lanao del Norte province which had not enjoyed the services of a municipal health officer for 12 years. There he was known for travelling solo to remote villages to conduct medical checkups and deliver other medical services.

WHEREAS, Dr. Perlas, who was also known to shell out his own money to ensure that destitute patients are able to buy the prescribed medication or pay for ambulance services when required, opted to remain in Sapad even after his tour ended.

WHEREAS, a strong humanitarian spirit and dedication to public service was nurtured in Dr. Perlas through the example set by his parents Batan Councilor Dennis Perlas, a dedicated public servant and Leovigilda Perlas, the head teacher of the Batan Academy, which is, likewise, devoted to ensuring the good education of students in the public school system.

WHEREAS, Dr. Perlas was shot and killed by an unknown assailant on the eve of March 1, 2017, as he was heading towards his rented home, on his motorcycle. The good doctor was driving through Barangay Maranding Annex in Kapatagan on his way to Lala Town around 7:30 pm when he was gunned down. He was declared dead on arrival at the Lanao del Norte Provincial Hospital in nearby Baroy town from a single bullet that pierced his heart.

WHEREAS, no words can fully express his parent's agony and sorrow that the life of their first-born was abruptly snuffed out while he was staying in the community that he so loved and opted to serve.

WHEREAS, the members of this august Chamber join his family and the whole nation in their moment of bereavement over the untimely and violent demise of an extraordinary doctor whose Christ-like dedication to the Hippocratic Oath should serve as an inspiration for others who are in the medical field.

WHEREAS, with this untimely demise of Dr. Perlas, we call government authorities, especially the police force and the Judicial Branch, to immediately take action and to unceasingly pursue until the malefactors of the crime are captured so that justice is served on the death of Dr. Perlas.

WHEREAS, with the increasing trend in criminal-related cases including issues of extra-judicial killings in our country, remedial legislation is necessary to be enacted to address the said issues. Thus, I have sponsored various bills in this Congress to address the issues that continue to plague our country. Now, therefore, be it.

Resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, to express, as it hereby expresses, its profound sympathy and sincere condolence to the parents on the death of a selfless doctor, Dr. Dreyfuss Perlas:

Resolved, further, That a copy of this Resolution be furnished the bereaved family of Dr. Dreyfuss Perlas.

Adopted,



Richard J. Gordon