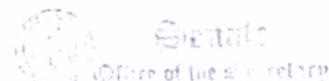


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )



SENATE

'17 DEC -4 P1:07

P.S. Res. No. 557

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO

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RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE DENGUE IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH VIS-À-VIS THE SANOFI PASTEUR'S NEW CLINICAL FINDINGS ON THE VACCINE DENG VAXIA'S ADVERSE EFFECTS TO ITS RECIPIENTS

WHEREAS, Dengue is a viral infection caused by four types of viruses (DENV-1, DENV-2, DENV-3, DENV-4) belonging to the Flaviviridae family. The viruses are transmitted through the bite of infected *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* female mosquitoes that feed both indoors and outdoors during the daytime. It is found in tropical and sub-tropical regions of the world, mostly in urban and semi-urban settings;

WHEREAS, in the Philippines, a total of 76,931 dengue cases were reported nationwide from January 1 to September 2, 2017 alone, affecting ages less than one month to ninety-eight years old with most of the cases belonged to the 5-9 years age group. Recorded deaths on the other hand is at 413 on the same period<sup>1</sup>;

WHEREAS, most of the cases were from the National Capital Region (14.4%), Region IVA (12.9%), Region VII (11.7%), and Region X (8.3%) with Metro Manila, Cebu, South Cotabato, Pampanga, and Negros Occidental as the provinces recorded to have the most cases<sup>2</sup>;

WHEREAS, in April 2016 the Department of Health (DoH) in partnership with the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) launched its Dengue School-Based Immunization to

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<sup>1</sup> Dengue Disease Surveillance Report (Jan.1 – Sept. 2, 2017), Department of Health – Epidemiology Bureau.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

provide free vaccination to all Grade IV pupils nine (9) years and older in all public schools in Regions III, IV-A, and NCR<sup>3</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, the first dengue vaccine to be licensed is called CYD-TDV (Dengvaxia) and was used in Mexico in December 2015 for individuals 9-45 years of age living in endemic areas. CYD-TDV is a live recombinant tetravalent dengue vaccine developed by Sanofi Pasteur, a French company. To date, it has been approved by eleven countries, including the Philippines, but it has yet to be approved by the European Medicines Agency (EMA);

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Health procured said dengue vaccines in the amount of Php 3.5 Billion in 2016 and targeted the provision of dengue vaccine to about one million Filipino children. The vaccination comes in three doses with a six-month interval for each dose and with the third phase of the immunization ongoing;

**WHEREAS**, on November 29, 2017, Sanofi Pasteur released an update on its dengue vaccine. Its own clinical studies revealed that Dengvaxia provides persistent protective benefit against dengue fever in those who had prior infection but for those not previously infected by dengue virus more cases of severe disease could occur in the long term following vaccination upon a subsequent dengue infection;

**WHEREAS**, following this alarming revelation by Sanofi, the Department of Health ordered the suspension of the dengue vaccination. To date, 733,713 children received the vaccine;

**WHEREAS**, in consonance with the protection and promotion of the right to health of the people as guaranteed by the 1987 Constitution, it is the duty of the Congress to inquire into matters which are in violation of such State policy;

**WHEREAS**, it is the responsibility of the Congress, as voice of the people, to ensure that the State upholds the general welfare and protects the sanctity of life of all its citizens;

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to review the implementation of the Dengue Immunization Program of the Department of Health, and to assess the possible adverse effects of the Sanofi findings on the health of the children affected;

**WHEREAS**, the Senate, through its proper committee should be able to assess the Department of Health's response and subsequent actions in guiding the public of the proper measures to take;

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<sup>3</sup> FAQ-Dengue School-based Immunization, accessed through the Department of Health website.

**WHEREAS**, there is also a need to look into the possible accountability of public officials involved in the program's conceptualization through its implementation;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate Committee, to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the Dengue Immunization Program of the Department of Health, vis-à-vis the Sanofi Pasteur's new clinical findings on the vaccine Dengvaxia's adverse effects to its recipients.

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, to direct the proper Senate Committee to look into the possible irregularities in the procurement of the dengue vaccine.

*Adopted,*



**JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO**