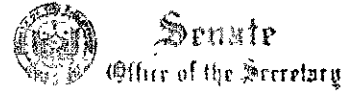


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1058

RECEIVED BY: *[Signature]*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT THAT SOME NURSES STILL GET
SALARIES BELOW THE STIPULATED MINIMUM

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

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 18 provides: “The State affirms labor as a primary social economic force. It shall protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare”;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9713 or the Philippine Nursing Act of 2002 states: “In order to enhance the general welfare, commitment to service and professionalism of nurses the minimum base pay of nurses working in the public health institutions shall not be lower than salary grade 15 prescribed under Republic Act No. 6758, otherwise known as the ‘Compensation and Classification Act of 1989’: Provided, That for nurses working in local government units, adjustments to their salaries shall be in accordance with Section 10 of the said law”;

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* on 31 October 2014 reported that the Philippine Nurses Association (PNA) House of Delegates has recently deliberated on a resolution to transform the organization into a national union, but a conservative bloc of nurses rejected the initiative;

WHEREAS, the move was reportedly contemplated as nurses fear the growing threat of infectious diseases like ebola and the impact of the economic integration in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 2015;

WHEREAS, some members claim that through a union, nurses will be able to negotiate for better terms with private and government hospitals to enforce better healthcare and to acquire sufficient protective gear for health workers who are tasked to take care of health problems like the highly contagious ebola virus;

WHEREAS, advocates added that through unionization, nurses will be able to address the government’s inability to enforce the ₱25,000 standardized monthly salary of new nurses in government hospitals;

WHEREAS, under the law, nurses in government hospitals should not be paid lower than salary grade 15 or ₱22,688, but reports have earlier said some nurses receive ₱15,649 a month in entry level positions in public health institutions;

WHEREAS, according to the news, some nurses fear that while the ASEAN integration could make it easier for Filipino nurses to work in neighboring countries, it could also allow a flood of nurses from other countries to work in local hospitals for pay lower than that of Filipino nurses;

WHEREAS, the nursing sector reportedly has one of the highest unemployment and underemployment rates in the country's labor force;

WHEREAS, in fulfilling its mandate of protecting public health and the welfare of workers, Congress should strengthen existing legislation to ensure that nurses are adequately paid;

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct the proper Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, to implement the standardized pay of nurses in public hospitals.

Adopted,

/lcb


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
RP