

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines

Eighteenth Congress
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House Resolution No. 847



Sponsored by **Hon. Estrellita B. Suansing**

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE HIRING AND MANAGEMENT OF EMPLOYEES, THE DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF FACILITIES OF THE TALAVERA GENERAL HOSPITAL BASED ON AN ANONYMOUS COMPLAINT AGAINST THE MANAGEMENT OF THE SAID HOSPITAL AND PROPOSE REMEDIAL MEASURES

WHEREAS, the Talavera General Hospital was formerly known as the Dr. Paulino J. Garcia Memorial Research and Medical Center Extension Hospital – Talavera. By virtue of Republic Act No. 11085, which was enacted into law on September 28, 2018, the said hospital was converted into a Level II Hospital, to be known as the Talavera General Hospital (TGH);

WHEREAS, as a Level II hospital, the TGH bed capacity shall increase from fifty (50) to one hundred (100) beds and the medical facilities and services shall be widened. Accordingly, the staffing pattern of the aforementioned hospital shall be modified to allow the hospital to function efficiently and deliver better curative healthcare services to the people;

WHEREAS, an anonymous complaint was sent to the Department of Health reporting some alleged incidents that occurred in the hospital. The said allegations are apparent violations of existing laws, rules and regulations governing the operations of government hospitals and the conduct of government officials and employees;

WHEREAS, the anonymous complaint reported the unfair and biased selection and promotion of employees. Applicants for certain *plantilla* positions are subjected to a competency examination and a panel interview as bases for hiring. Favored applicants who apparently failed to pass the written examination were allegedly allowed to retake the examination.

Likewise, there were serious allegations that the questionnaire given to favored applicants already contained the answer key. The employees further lamented the fact that applicants from other hospitals were apparently favored than longtime personnel of the Talavera General Hospital, who are both eligible and qualified for promotion. These allegations gravely undermine the required impartiality and objectivity of the selection process.

WHEREAS, the complaint enumerates the appointment of several employees to various positions in the hospital. These new appointees are apparently relatives of incumbent TGH personnel and are closely associated with high ranking officials of the hospital. Moreover, permanent employees were allegedly transferred to other positions without just cause and solely to accommodate an applicant favored by the hospital management;

WHEREAS, the on-going construction of the Out Patient Department (OPD) building is reportedly sub-standard and must be structurally tested and verified. The deliveries of construction materials were not properly documented and physically inventoried and checked. Aside from this, the installation of some fixtures was apparently overpriced and were supplied by favored contractors. Moreover, there is a purported connivance between some hospital officials and certain suppliers who are suspected to be relatives;

WHEREAS, the funds earmarked and appropriated for the maintenance and operating expenses of the hospital were apparently not disbursed according to its intended purpose, but rather for some other ulterior cause. Moreover, there are persistent reports from patients stating that they were redirected to take laboratory examinations at private clinics and laboratories nearby the hospital premises. In addition to this, the patients were also asked to purchase medication from private pharmacies and drug stores. The medicines found in these private pharmacies were seemingly purchased from the hospital pharmacy and were consequently being sold at a higher price;

WHEREAS, hospital employees who were perceived to be in disagreement with certain management policies were either ostracized, re-assigned or bypassed in promotion, an act which is in utter disregard of the best practices in Human Resource Development. In one case, an employee was even suspended for a period of six (6) months without the benefit of a proper investigation or due process;

WHEREAS, based on the anonymous complaint sent to the Department of Health, an investigation team was formed by the Regional Office III of DOH to look into the allegations in the complaint. During the course of the investigation, some employees were interviewed in the presence of the hospital management. As such, these employees apparently did not confirm any of the

allegations indicated in the complaint for fear of reprisals from the hospital management;

WHEREAS, the Department of Health, through its Regional Office in Central Luzon concluded the investigation by dismissing the anonymous complaint for lack of verifiable information;

WHEREAS, now that the country is in great need of medical care facilities as we implement the Universal Health Care law and as we embark on our journey post-COVID-19, we must ensure that our healthcare frontliners are not only safe in their work environment, but more importantly, are happy and pleased with the way their workplace is being managed;

WHEREAS, with the dismissal of the investigation of Talavera General Hospital, there is no other recourse but to call on Congress to perform its oversight functions and investigate the incidents reported by concerned employees of the Talavera General Hospital, verify the information contained in the anonymous complaint and recommend the filing of both administrative and criminal charges against those who will be found to have violated existing laws.

NOW, THEREFORE, Be it resolved by the House of Representatives to direct the Committee on Health of the House of Representatives to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the hiring and management of employees, the disbursement of funds and the construction of facilities of the Talavera General Hospital based on an anonymous complaint against the management of the said hospital and propose remedial measures.

Adopted,


ESTRELLITA B. SUANSING