

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



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE  
P.S.R. No. 475

RECEIVED BY: *ji*

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, TO CONSIDER PROHIBITING THE USE, PRODUCTION, AND SALE OF NAPHTHALENE-BASED PEST CONTROL PRODUCTS IN THE COUNTRY, BASED ON THE REPORTED HEALTH RISKS THE PEST CONTROL PRODUCT POSE

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Section 11, Article XIII provides: "The State shall establish and maintain an effective food and drug regulatory system and undertake appropriate health, manpower development, and research, responsive to the country's health needs and problems";

WHEREAS, various news agencies in 3 January 2014 reported that consumer rights and environmentalist group EcoWaste Coalition urged the government to ban naphthalene mothballs due to the health risks it poses;

WHEREAS, the EcoWaste Coalition made this appeal after the European Commission issued an alert based on Bulgaria's withdrawal of the product, which was reportedly imported from the Philippines;

WHEREAS, the European Union has reportedly banned naphthalene mothballs as a moth repellent products since 2008;

WHEREAS, Ecowaste Coalition reportedly said that the Bulgaria's withdrawal of mothballs imported from the Philippines should be a wakeup call for makers and users of naphthalene-based pest control products;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the pest control product poses a chemical risk because it contains pure naphthalene, which is toxic by inhalation, ingestion and dermal absorption;

WHEREAS, EcoWaste Coalition officers said that cheap insect repellents are still widely available in the local market despite the health concerns that prompted European countries to ban naphthalene balls,

WHEREAS, it was also reported that the United Kingdom's Health Protection Agency also warns that naphthalene is toxic by all routes of exposure, whether it is ingested, inhaled or comes into contact with skin and eyes;

WHEREAS, the International Agency for Research on Cancer has reportedly classified naphthalene as a possible human carcinogen;

WHEREAS, EcoWaste Coalition officers reportedly urged concerned government agencies to impose a ban on the use of naphthalene and other hazardous substances such as paradichlorobenzene for pest control as a precaution against health-damaging exposure;

WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct the proper Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, to consider prohibiting the use, production, and sale of naphthalene-based pest control products in the country, based on the reported health risks the pest control product pose.

Adopted,

*Miriam Defensor Santiago*  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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/RJD