

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

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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 555

RECEIVED BY: *ja*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON SKIN WHITENING PRODUCTS, WHICH REPORTEDLY
CONTAIN HIGH LEVELS OF MERCURY, STILL BEING SOLD IN METRO MANILA
AND OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY

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

WHEREAS, the *Manila Bulletin*, in its 23 February 2014 online article, reported that a banned skin whitening product, which contains high levels of mercury, is still being sold in Metro Manila and other parts of the country;

WHEREAS, according to EcoWaste Coalition, it was able to buy the Erna Whitening Cream from 10 Chinese drugstores in Divisoria, Quiapo, and Sta. Cruz in Manila;

WHEREAS, in addition, it reportedly said that the product is sold online through buy-and-sell sites like Sulit and AyosDito;

WHEREAS, last November, it was reported that the Food and Drug Administration banned Erna Whitening Cream and 10 other whitening cosmetic products for containing mercury above the maximum allowed limit of 1 part per million (ppm);

WHEREAS, other allegedly toxic whitening creams on the list are Angela Placenta Whitening Cream (Tender Skin & Whitening), Gemli Beauty Series Freckles Cream Plus Placenta Extract, Jiaoli Huichunsu Specific Eliminating Freckle Cream; Jiaoli Speckle Dispelling & Whitening Cream, LMSER Whitening Cream, Sanli Eliminating Freckle Cream Plus Complex Vitamin C & E, Top Shirley Nourishing Cream, White Magnolia Intensive Repair Essence & Powerful Spot Remover, Zhjren Whitening Ruddy Combination Suit and Zhjren 7 Day Beauty Elegant Moisturizing & Whitening Day Cream;

WHEREAS, it is imperative for the State to ensure that these whitening products are prevented from proliferating in the market; thus, the legislature should study if higher penalties should be imposed or stricter guidelines should be implemented to stop dangerous skin products from being sold to the public;

WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reported banned skin whitening product, which contains high levels of mercury, still being sold in Metro Manila and other parts of the country.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO