

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



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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 589

RECEIVED BY: *ji*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED PREVALENT USE OF TROPHIES AND
MEDALS CONTAMINATED WITH LEAD

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, ecowastecoalition.com has posted a report that they have cautioned school administrators and teachers from rewarding their most talented students with medals and trophies decorated with leaded paint;

WHEREAS, the EcoWaste Coalition, in its latest bid to promote public awareness and action against hazardous chemicals and wastes, released the results of its probe on harmful substances in medals and trophies given to students in appreciation of their academic, artistic, sporting or various other accomplishments;

WHEREAS, lead is reportedly on the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' "priority chemicals" list and the World Health Organization's "ten chemicals of major public health concern";

WHEREAS, the group reportedly purchased 10 generic medals (worth P13.50 to P55 each) and 3 basketball and volleyball trophies (costing P300 to P400 each) with painted designs, and had them screened for lead using a portable X-Ray fluorescence device;

WHEREAS, the screening results allegedly showed that paints used on the 10 medals had lead from 5,965 parts per million (ppm) to 39,500 ppm, way above the 90 ppm threshold limit for lead in paint under the newly promulgated Chemical Control Order for Lead and Lead Compounds (CCO) by the DENR;

WHEREAS, the paints used on the 3 trophies were also reportedly found leaded in the range of 5,458 ppm to 11,500 ppm;

WHEREAS, last year, the group also found custom made medals, especially the yellow-painted ones, with excessive lead levels up to 123,800 ppm;

WHEREAS, Thony Dizon, Coordinator of the EcoWaste Coalition's Project Protect reportedly said that harmful substances such as lead is known to damage the brain, reduce intelligence, stunt development and growth, and cause behavioral problems;

WHEREAS, according to the World Health Organization, lead is a toxic metal whose widespread use has caused extensive environmental contamination and health problems in many parts of the world;

WHEREAS, the WHO also said lead is a cumulative toxicant that affects multiple body systems, including the neurologic, hematologic, gastrointestinal, cardiovascular, and renal systems;

WHEREAS, it is the obligation of the State to regulate, restrict or prohibit items which use lead;

WHEREAS, the State should also encourage school administrators as well as medal and trophy donors to only give medals and trophies which are guaranteed not to contain lead and other toxic substances;

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 prevalent use of trophies and medals contaminated with lead.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
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