

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



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SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 660

RECEIVED BY: *J*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID  
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT THAT DENTAL CLINICS AND SCHOOLS IN  
BAGUIO CITY EMIT HIGH CONCENTRATIONS OF MERCURY

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 14 states, "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them";

WHEREAS, the ManilaStandardToday.com, in its 10 May 2014 issue, has posted a news article into the high concentration of mercury emissions in dental clinics and schools;

WHEREAS, Dr. Lillian Ebuena, president of the International Association of Oral and Medical Toxicologists, alleged that in some areas in Baguio City, the concentration were greater than 10,000 micrograms per cubic meter, which is considered evacuation alert level in the United States;

WHEREAS, this level of mercury is reportedly dangerous for students and practitioners, who work in clinics for eight to nine hours a day;

WHEREAS, the source of mercury emissions has been allegedly traced to the dental amalgam, a material used as dental filling which is composed of 50 percent mercury and some amounts of silver, tin, copper and other materials;

WHEREAS, to measure the mercury level, technicians reportedly placed the fillings inside the Mercury Vapor Analyzer;

WHEREAS, it was reported that many of them were at levels beyond the reference standard of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry action level of 1,000 micrograms per cubic meter;

WHEREAS, Richard Gutierrez, executive director of Ban Toxics, reportedly said that despite the negative effects of mercury vapor, dental amalgam proliferates because it is presently allowed;

WHEREAS, Gutierrez also alleged that dental clinics supply mercury to small-scale miners in the Cordillera region and many dentists operate as gold buyers;

WHEREAS, the report claimed that according to Gutierrez, it is typical to see in Baguio a jewelry shop and gold dealer next to a dental clinic and supplier;

WHEREAS, he also alleged that mercury was being phased out in the Philippines and initiatives have been taken to revise the curriculum of dental schools toward mercury-free dentistry patterned after United States and Singapore;

WHEREAS, the government should act immediately on the suggestion of the International Association of Oral and Medical Toxicologists for the total ban of amalgam for the safety of our dental practitioners, miners, and children;

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 report that dental clinics and schools in baguio city emit high concentrations of mercury.

*Miriam Defensor Santiago*  
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