

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



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SENATE
P.S.R No. 700

RECEIVED BY: *fu*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT THAT SOME WATER COLORS PRODUCTS SOLD TO SCHOOLCHILDREN CONTAIN TOXIC CHEMICALS

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 12, Section 12 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 problem";

WHEREAS, the *Manila Bulletin* on 29 May 2014 reported that EcoWaste Coalition warned the public that some water color products sold in the market may contain lead;

WHEREAS, EcoWaste Coalition reportedly identified the water color product as Artex Fine Water Colors, which are sold between P65 and P85 by street vendors in Metro Manila;

WHEREAS, the group claimed they found that the water color sets contained lead from 5,900 to 37,000 parts per million (ppm), specifically on the yellow block;

WHEREAS, the lead content found in these water color sets are reportedly way beyond the tolerable limit of 90 ppm;

WHEREAS, it was reported that lead has tendency to accumulate slowly in the body when ingested over prolonged period of time; the poisonous metal may be deposited in the bones and teeth, and can be found in blood; chronic lead poisoning can cause nervous system toxicity and renal tubular dysfunction leading to irreversible interstitial nephrosis with progressive renal impairment and hypertension; lead can also depress blood synthesis and shortens the life span of erythrocytes or red blood cells, causing a hypochromic microcytic anaemia;

WHEREAS, EcoWaste officials reportedly appealed to both the national and local authorities to take immediate and decisive steps to rid the market of dangerous and substandard school supplies like Artex Fine Water Colors;

WHEREAS, EcoWaste officials reportedly said the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has confirmed with the Department of Trade and Industry's Bureau of Trade Regulation and Consumer Protection that Venus Commercial Co. has no valid license to operate nor has pending application for issuance of LTO, and that Artex Fine Water Colors is not registered or notified, nor is there pending application for registration/notification;

WHEREAS, Congress and other concerned agencies should ensure that school supplies tainted with lead and other hazardous chemicals do not reach the local market through more vigilant monitoring of commercial activities and stringent testing of these products;

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 some water colors products sold to schoolchildren contain toxic chemicals.

Adopted,

ocv

MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/RJD