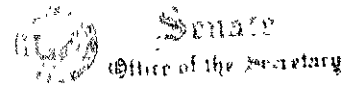



SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )



15 MAY 18 A8:31

SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 1350

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY AND OTHER APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE REPORTED INCREASE IN THE INCIDENCE OF ACCIDENTAL INTAKE OF OXALIC ACID, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF CRAFTING APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION THAT WOULD REGULATE, IF NOT BAN, THE USE OF THE POISONOUS SUBSTANCE IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE HEALTH OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC**

*WHEREAS*, the protection of public health is a paramount policy issue especially as this principle echoes the constitutional mandate of the State to protect the health of its citizens and to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential health services available to all;

*WHEREAS*, EcoWaste Coalition, an environmental advocacy group, is now urging the City of Manila for the immediate prohibition of the unauthorized sale of oxalic acid following the deaths of two people found to have drunk milk tea infused with said lethal substance;

*WHEREAS*, oxalic acid is a poisonous substance that appears harmless in its crystalline form as it looks like refined sugar or iodized salt;

*WHEREAS*, aside from its industrial applications and its extensive use in the leather industry, this acid is used as a household cleaning and bleaching agent and in removing rust from iron;

*WHEREAS*, said poisonous substance was found in the samples taken from the blood and stomach of the two persons who died in a milk tea store in Manila;

*WHEREAS*, according to EcoWaste Coalition, oxalic powder may be purchased along the streets from ambulant vendors for less than Php100.00 for every kilo and is sold in clear plastic bags with the label "oxalic" written by hand, and comes with no any precautionary warning or information;

*WHEREAS*, according to news reports, in the year 2011, two pupils of Larion Bajo Elementary School in Tuguegarao City were killed and 44 others were hospitalized due to oxalic-related food poisoning;

**WHEREAS**, in 2007, 60 persons in Compostela Valley were hospitalized after oxalic acid was mistaken for salt and was used as an ingredient in one of the meals in a feeding program;

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to investigate this matter and review existing laws and policies being implemented anent the handling and sale of oxalic acid;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved, that the Philippine Senate directs the Senate Committees on Health and Demography and other appropriate Senate committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the reported increase in the incidence of accidental intake of oxalic acid, with the end in view of crafting appropriate legislation that would regulate, if not ban, the use of the poisonous substance in order to protect the health of the general public.

*Adopted,*

  
MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID