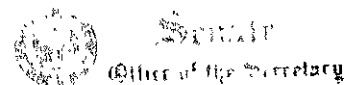


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)



15 JUL -1 P6:20

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1419

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,
ON THE REPORTED PROLIFERATION OF SKIN CARE PRODUCTS
WITH HIGH LEVELS OF MERCURY CONTENT

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

3 WHEREAS, R.A. No. 7394, also known as the “Consumer Act of the Philippines,”
4 Article 2, states: “It is the policy of the State to protect the interests of the consumer, promote his
5 general welfare and to establish standards of conduct for business and industry....”

6 WHEREAS, the *Manila Bulletin* on 13 June 2015 reported that some whitening products
7 sold in parts of the country have high level of mercury contents;

8 WHEREAS, the *Bulletin* quoted consumer safety watchdog EcoWaste Coalition, which
9 in turn cited studies from the World Health Organization and the European Union;

10 WHEREAS, mercury is allegedly a common ingredient in skin lightening soaps and
11 creams being sold and available in Asian countries including the Philippines;

12 WHEREAS, EcoWaste Coalition claimed that chronic exposure to products with high
13 levels of mercury can cause kidney damage and impaired renal function;

14 WHEREAS, some 10 skin care products sold in the Philippines have purportedly been
15 banned by the Bureau of Food and Drug Administration, but remain undetected by the
16 Department of Trade and Industry;

17 WHEREAS, the EcoWaste Coalition charged that these illegal products are mostly sold
18 in alternative medicine stores and general merchandise retailers;

19 WHEREAS, the Philippine government is duty-bound to purge the market of products
20 with high mercury content as party to the Minamata Convention on Mercury;

1 WHEREAS, the government must enforce the full strength of the law in pursuing and
2 holding accountable importers and distributors of skin care products with high levels of mercury
3 content;

4 WHEREAS, Congress must review strengthen existing legislation in order to protect
5 Filipino consumers against unlawful trade of hazardous and health-risk products;

6 WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct
7 the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reported
8 proliferation of skin care products with high levels of mercury content.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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