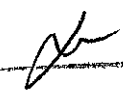


THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
First Regular Session

5 MAR 14 P 1:15

SENATE  
Resolution No. **212**

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator M.A. Madrigal

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, WOMEN AND FAMILY RELATIONS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE CAUSE OF DEATH OF AT LEAST TWENTY-SEVEN (27) ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN AND THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-ONE (131) REPORTED CASES OF FOOD POISONING IN MABINI, BOHOL, TO INCREASE CHILD PROTECTION FROM HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES AND TO ENSURE THEIR RIGHT TO THE HIGHEST ATTAINABLE STANDARD OF HEALTH**

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 13 of the 1987 Constitution states that "(t)he State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being";

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 15 of the Constitution further provides that "(t)he State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them";

WHEREAS, the Philippines is a signatory to, and has ratified, various international instruments that promote, protect and fulfill children's rights, particularly the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

WHEREAS, Article 24(1) of the Convention declares that State Parties shall recognize the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health, and shall strive to ensure that no child is deprived of his or her right of access to such health care services;

WHEREAS, Article 3 of the same Convention states that Parties shall ensure that the institutions, services and facilities responsible for the care or protection of children shall conform with standards established by competent authorities, particularly in the areas of safety, health, in the number and suitability of their staff, as well as competent supervision;

WHEREAS, it is the duty of the State to maintain the integrity of the school system as a haven for children where they can safely learn without worrying about their physical, mental or emotional safety;

WHEREAS, there were at least twenty-seven (27) school children who died and the poisoning of some one hundred thirty others in Mabini, Bohol, allegedly from ingesting poisonous cassava;

WHEREAS, there is a need to determine the root cause of this unfortunate occurrence in the face of various reports as to the alleged introduction of foreign substances, such as pesticides or insecticides, in the fields where the cassava plants were sourced, which substances could have caused an increase in the toxicity of the plants' inherent poisonous components;

WHEREAS, in a newspaper account, organophosphate, which is a form of pesticide and highly toxic in nature, was found in the stomach of one of the fatalities;

WHEREAS, another theory on the cause of the poisoning is the increased use by farmers of pesticide that might have flowed down to the cassava field and contaminated the crops;

WHEREAS, it is imperative to determine the real source of poisoning for the promotion of the welfare of the children;

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the Committee On Youth, Women and Family Relations to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the cause of death of at least twenty-seven (27) elementary school children and the one hundred thirty-one (131) reported cases of food poisoning in Mabini, Bohol, to increase child protection from hazardous substances, and to ensure their right to the highest attainable standard of health.

Adopted,

  
M.A. MADRIGAL