

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

5 APR 26 P5:20

SENATE
Resolution No. 241

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by Senator M.A. Madrigal

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, WOMEN AND FAMILY RELATIONS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE DELETERIOUS EFFECTS OF DIOXINS ON THE HEALTH OF THE CHILDREN, WOMEN AND THE REST OF THE COMMUNITY ALLEGEDLY EMANATING FROM INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT INC. (IWMI), AN INCINERATOR PLANT OPERATING IN BARANGAY AGUADO, TRECE MARTIRES CITY, CAVITE

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 enacted three major laws that uphold the essence of ecological resource management to ensure the health and safety of this nation's children and other future generations: Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999 otherwise known as Republic Act 8749, Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 otherwise known as Republic Act 9003, and Toxic Substances and Hazardous Wastes Control Act of 1990 otherwise known as Republic Act 6969;

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, the Philippines also ratified the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants in February 2004 which binds the State to reduce and eliminate toxic substances like dioxins from its environment;

WHEREAS, Section 20 of RA 8749 specifically bans incineration because of its toxic effects;

WHEREAS, Integrated Waste Management Inc. (IWMI) is operating an incinerator for the disposal of hospital waste;

WHEREAS, on 21 April 2005, international study groups active on waste and pollution issues released a report showing eggs of chickens grown near IWMI incinerator plant in Barangay Aguado, Trece Martires City, Cavite contain alarming levels of dioxin and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBS), indicating that *incineration is the most probable cause of dioxins*;

WHEREAS, dioxin is an unintended byproduct of many combustion and manufacturing processes which is the most toxic chemical known to science and is recognized as a human carcinogen thereby causing cancer and other chronic diseases;

WHEREAS, IWMI argues that their method of waste disposal is pyrolysis and not incineration to which the contrary may be argued with supporting evidence;

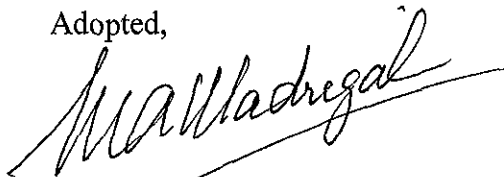
WHEREAS, there are reports that children in the community are already suffering from respiratory disorders, allergies and other forms of diseases and it is suspected that the high dioxin presence in the community is the cause of these ailments and that pregnant women run the risk of giving birth to babies with birth defects;

WHEREAS, there is a pending case before the Regional Trial Court of Muntinlupa between IWMI and former DENR Secretary Gozun in her capacity as Secretary enjoining the latter from reviewing the legality of the use of pyrolysis technology of IWMI;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent and pressing need to investigate the source of dioxins since it is detrimental to the health of the community, particularly its 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 deleterious effects of dioxins on the health of the children, women, and the rest of the community allegedly emanating from Integrated Waste Management Inc. (IWMI) incinerator plant located in Barangay Aguado, Trece Martires City, Cavite.

Adopted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M.A. Madrigal', written over a horizontal line.

M.A. MADRIGAL