


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

6 FEB 13 P1:44

SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 444

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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RESOLUTION  
DIRECTING AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE INCIDENCE OF  
CANCER AND OTHER DISEASES AMONG FARMERS DUE TO EXPOSURE TO  
CHEMICAL-BASED FARM INPUTS

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

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 16 also provides that: "The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature";

WHEREAS, during the 1st Cordillera Organic Agriculture Congress, Dr. Charles Cheng, a Dr. Jose Rizal awardee for excellence in medicine and community service, discovered that Cordillera's vegetable farms have become a dumping ground of chemical-based farm inputs, which threaten farmers' health and the environment;



WHEREAS, the Philippine Daily Inquirer, on 18 January 2006, reported Dr. Cheng's study on the ill-effects of chemical spray on vegetable farms concluded that diseases among Benguet farmers have a direct relation to the frequent use of commercial pesticide and insecticides; chemical studies have shown high incidence of cancer, asthma, skin diseases and allergy among farmers;

WHEREAS, Dr. Cheng added that Cordillera has the second highest incidence of blindness in the country and this could be due to exposure to chemicals sprayed in the farms;

WHEREAS, based on the 2005 Fertilizer and Pesticides Authority statistics, farmers spend P500,000 a month on synthetic farm inputs;

WHEREFORE, be it resolved, that the proper Senate committee shall conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the incidence of cancer and other diseases among farmers due to exposure to chemical-based farm inputs.

Approved,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  


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