


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

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SENATE

P.S. RES. NO. 246

RECEIVED BY: 

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR PIA S. CAYETANO

A RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO INQUIRE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON EXISTING BUY BACK POLICIES AND OTHER DISPOSAL PRACTICES OF USED CELL PHONE UNITS AND THEIR BATTERIES

Whereas, in 2005, there was a total of 2,168,433,600 cell phones used worldwide;

Whereas, the Philippines ranked 21st among 227 countries with approximately 32,810,000 cell phones used;

Whereas, with recent data showing the continuous increase of cell phone users in the country, Philippines remains to be the texting capital of the world;

Whereas, an average cell phone consists of 40 percent metal, 40 percent plastics, and 20 percent ceramics and trace materials;

Whereas, cell phones also contain toxics-rich semiconductor chips, the most hazardous parts of which are found in the cell phone's circuit board, liquid crystal display and batteries;

Whereas, circuit boards are made of materials like copper, gold, lead, nickel, zinc, beryllium, tantalum, coltan, and other metals. The liquid crystal displays (LCD) are composed of various liquid crystalline substances including mercury;

Whereas, cell phones utilize various types of batteries such as nickel-metal hydride (Ni-MH), lithium-ion(Li-Ion), nickel-cadmium (Ni-Cd), or lead acid. nickel-metal hydride and nickel-cadmium batteries contain nickel, cobalt, zinc, cadmium, and copper while lithium-ion batteries use lithium metallic oxide and carbon-based materials

Whereas, with rapid technological advancement and with the proliferation of cell phones units and the inherent short life cycle of the batteries, an increase in the number of used cell phone batteries is expected;

Whereas, due to the lack of proper disposal of used cell phone units and batteries, a total of some 500 million used units and batteries worldwide are expected to end up in landfills, producing 142 tons of lead, based on the study of the research group INFORM;

Whereas, these cell phone units and accessories may leach out, react with, or produce toxic and harmful substances which may get into the atmosphere and water;

Whereas, these used cell phones constitute a substantial part of the potentially hazardous and toxic electronic- wastes when improperly disposed and mixed with the municipal solid wastes in dumpsites or sanitary landfills;

Whereas, only recently the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), under Sec. Lito Atienza's leadership, launched the "Cell Phone Waste Collection and Recycling";

Whereas, this project designates drop-off points for discarded cell phones and parts in shopping malls and other public places;

Whereas, twenty (20) collection bins are to be installed in three designated areas in Metro Manila;

Whereas, the wastes collected will be sorted and stored in a temporary storage area at the malls and will later be collected by HMR Envirocycle Philippines for recycling;

Whereas, aside from the general provisions of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, there are no other laws governing the disposal of cell phone units and batteries;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Senate of the Philippines direct the Senate Committees on Health and Demography and Environment and Natural Resources to inquire, in aid of legislation, on the existing buy back policies and other disposal practices of cell phone units and batteries.

Adopted,


PIA S. CAYETANO
Senator