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OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

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SENATE
P.S.R. No. 325

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED PRESENCE OF HIGH LEVELS
OF LEAD IN SEVERAL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
IN TARLAC CITY

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

WHEREAS, according to a study conducted by the Tarlac State University's Biological and Physical Sciences Department, through Prof. Louella Ona, six public and private elementary schools in Tarlac City were allegedly found contaminated with lead at levels that pose a "health hazard to school children";

WHEREAS, the study reportedly sought to measure the levels of lead in dust from selected elementary schools in Tarlac City; it was also aimed to determine if lead was present in the study areas by comparing the results to lead dust hazard standards set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (Usepa), and recommended measures for lead reduction and prevention of adverse health effects;

WHEREAS, the study was conducted by collecting and analyzing dust samples from the grounds of six schools in Tarlac City; the study revealed that the average lead levels in the dust samples exceeded the maximum value of 40 microgram per cubic feet, as set by Usepa;

WHEREAS, the study attributed the high levels of lead contamination in the six sampling sites "mainly to vehicular emission, particularly from motor vehicles that use leaded gasoline";

WHEREAS, lead is a highly toxic metal that has long been recognized as a harmful environmental pollutant causing a wide range of health effects in humans;

WHEREAS, citing a Usepa report, the study said that lead poisoning has been linked to mental retardation, poor academic performance, and juvenile delinquency;

WHEREAS, given the harmful effects of lead to human health, steps have to be taken to control the source of the lead dust in the test schools;

WHEREAS, the staff and the children attending the schools must undergo medical tests to determine whether their health have been adversely affected by their exposure to high levels of lead; if found to be so, they should be given adequate medical treatment,

WHEREAS, measures must be undertaken to ensure that schools nationwide are not exposed to high levels of lead and other toxic substances;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the alleged presence of high levels of lead in several public and private elementary schools in Tarlac City.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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