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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1206

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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 REPORTED NEED TO FAST-TRACK THE
GOVERNMENT PROGRAM PHASING OUT THE USE OF POLYCHLORINATED
BIPHENYLS (PCB) IN CERTAIN EQUIPMENT

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 16 provides: "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, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* in its 1 July 2009 issue reported that urgency to phase out polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in large transformers and voltage regulators in the power sector;

WHEREAS, Ecowaste Coalition spokesperson, Manny Calonzo, during the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) reportedly said that although the government already has a program on phasing out PCBs, the real problem is fast tracking the program;

WHEREAS, Angie Brabante, chief of the chemical management section of the DENR's Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) claimed that if introduced directly into the environment, PCB could affect the skin, immune and reproductive system, and that it is also dangerous to wildlife and resides in the environment for 30 years;

WHEREAS, Brabante also claimed that electric cooperatives around the country continue to use transformers and regulators with PCB; Calonzo, on the other hand, claims that there are around 32,000 transformers still being used which contain PCB;

WHEREAS, the reports said that according to Brabante, there are other oils that can be used as a substitute to PCB oil, like use mineral and silicon oil;

WHEREAS, according to Calonzo, the biggest concern at present would be how to dispose of PCBs since there is only one facility being constructed in the country to dispose of PCBs without burning, and that facility is still being constructed in Bataan and is expected to be finished this year;

WHEREAS, it was reported that PCBs belong to the so-called "dirty dozen" of POPs that include pesticides, industrial chemicals and unintentional byproducts of industrial and combustion processes;

WHEREAS, there is an estimated five million tons of PCB oils and contaminated equipment still being used worldwide;

WHEREAS, the report also claimed that initial inventories by the EMB estimated 6,879 tons of PCB-containing equipment and waste products with about 2400 tons of PCB oil in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, it was learned that PCBS are also found in industrial establishments, manufacturing plants, military camps and hospitals, and that exposure to PCBs may lead to cancer, particularly cancer of the liver;

WHEREAS, given the dangerous nature of PCBs, there is an urgent need to educate the public on its dire effects to the environment and to one's health;

WHEREAS, the legislature should also implement measures that would fast-track the elimination of PCBs being used in certain equipment;

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 reported need to fast-track the government program phasing out the use of polychlorinated biphenyls in certain equipment.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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