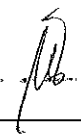


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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1399

RECEIVED BY



Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE INCREASED MANUFACTURING OF
PLASTIC SHOES CONTAINING TOXIC CHEMICALS WHICH CAN CAUSE
HEALTH COMPLICATIONS

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, the 15 September 2009 article in the ABS-CBN news website stated that a study conducted by the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SNCC) entitled, "Chemicals Up Close", warned that consumers who wear plastic shoes may be at risk for long-term health problems;

WHEREAS, SNCC tested 27 shoes sent by partner groups from the Philippines, India, Indonesia, South Africa, Tanzania, Sweden, and Uganda and found high and disturbing concentrations of harmful chemicals like phthalates in a variety of plastic-based flip-flops, sandals, clogs, and other shoes;

WHEREAS, phthalates are chemicals used to soften polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastic; these chemicals are widely believed to cause health complications like infertility and testicular problems among men, endocrine disorders, birth problems, and even cancer;

WHEREAS, the chemicals are released to the environment during usage and even after their useful lives; sooner or later, people will dispense with the shoes, creating additional environmental concerns;

WHEREAS, PVC plastics and phthalates are common in many materials including nail polish, perfumes, tools, adhesives, sealants, paint pigments, printer inks, baby milk bottles, pacifiers, and others; toxic levels of heavy metals like lead and mercury have also been found in toys and cosmetics;

WHEREAS, according to Manny Calonzo, president of the Eco-Waste Coalition, partner organization of the SNCC, the problem lies in the chronic exposure of people to environmental pollutants like wearing shoes that contain harmful toxins; this increases the chances of contamination, and even the factory workers who make these shoes are affected;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the Eco-Waste Coalition sent locally-retailed plastic shoe samples to the SNCC, including Adorable Dora sandals, Chaya slippers, Beachwalk slippers, and World Balance sandals;

WHEREAS, the SNCC report said three out of four of the Philippine samples contained one or two phthalate types;

WHEREAS, the report also stated that the locally-made Adorable Dora slipper for children contained 6.9% of diethylhexyl phthalate (DEHP), which is listed by the U.S. National Toxicology Program (NTP) as a substance reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen and which may affect the development of the male reproductive system;

WHEREAS, the report also claimed that Adorable Dora also listed 4.7% of diisodecyl phthalate (DiDP), which a European Commission study found to have no confirmed health risks;

WHEREAS, the report also claimed that the China-made flip-flop Chaya slippers were found to contain 8.6% DEHP; World Balance men's slippers were found to contain 9.6% dibutyl phthalate (DBP), the highest amount registered among plastic shoe samples from various countries;

WHEREAS, according to NTP, DBP may adversely affect human reproduction and development;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the Eco-Waste Coalition advised consumers to demand complete product information from the manufacturer and retailer about the product's chemical content, and avoid PVC products;

WHEREAS, consumers are enjoined from patronizing products made with toxic substances by researching about it;

WHEREAS, manufacturers and retailers are also urged to produce quality products without harmful chemical ingredients to ensure that they are safe for both consumers and factory workers;

WHEREAS, a stronger information drive should be conducted to inform the consumers about the chemicals used in shoe production, and which are present in finished shoes; manufacturers should also include hazard warnings on products that contain hazardous substances;

WHEREAS, it is imperative that a legislative measure to impose tighter regulations on unsafe products should be proposed since the Philippines currently lacks chemical safety laws and regulations;

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 increased manufacturing of plastic shoes toxic chemicals which can cause health complications.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/dpm