

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 92

RECEIVED

BY: *ja*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON PHASING OUT OF DECORATIVE PAINTS WITH
HIGH LEAD CONTENT

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, according various news reports, the Eco Waste Coalition proposed a national partnership initiative to phase out lead-containing paints following the release of a study that indicates the human health hazards of decorative paints;

WHEREAS, based on a 2009 report "Global Study to Determine Lead in New Decorative Paints in 10 Countries," it was reported that out of the 25 household paint samples from the Philippines, particularly in Metro Manila, 10 samples had lead concentrations higher than 90 ppm (parts per million) while nine samples had lead concentrations higher than 600 ppm;

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) recently revised the maximum allowable concentration of lead in new paints from 600 ppm to 90 ppm;

WHEREAS, several countries across Europe and North America have reportedly imposed bans and controls to eliminate lead in paints;

WHEREAS, in the Philippines, a draft chemical control order on lead formed in 2007 was allegedly never finalized by the Environmental Management Bureau;

WHEREAS, it was reported that according to EcoWaste coordinator Rei Panaligan, the test results of paint samples that the group bought from paint stores located in Makati City and Quezon City in December 2008 were subsequently sent via air freight to New Delhi, India, for testing in an accredited laboratory;

WHEREAS, Panaligan allegedly noted that oil-based enamel paint samples contain high concentrations of lead with average lead concentration at 28,353.6 ppm; while, water-based latex paint samples have low concentration of lead with no sample higher than 90 ppm;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the highest lead concentration found is 189,163.5 parts per million for an orange quick-drying enamel paint, and the lowest at 0.6 ppm for three latex-type paints;

WHEREAS, lead is a heavy metal, which is a known neurotoxicant that has been blamed for reduced intelligence quotients, developmental delays, speech and language problems, and other health issues, especially in growing children;

WHEREAS, test results also confirmed that leaded paints are still being produced and sold in countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Eastern Europe, exposing children and communities to this toxic substance;


WHEREAS, Eco Waste has partnered with India-based Toxics Link and US-based International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN) to find out the lead concentrations in major paint brands available in 10 developing countries, including the Philippines;

WHEREAS, the test results should provoke prompt action to inform the public about the hazards posed by lead in paints and the urgency of replacing this toxic metal with safer substitutes;

WHEREAS, it is also imperative to follow up on the draft chemical control order on lead which was organized by the Environmental Management Bureau;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate to direct the proper Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on phasing out of decorative paints with high lead-content.

Adopted,

our 
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/dpm