

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. 307

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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 PROLIFERATION OF TOYS LADEN WITH HIGH LEVELS OF LEAD AND OTHER TOXIC HEAVY METALS IN METRO MANILA

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 *Philippine Star* reported in its 29 September 2013 issue that, according to the environmental group EcoWaste Coalition, nearly half of 200 toys bought from several markets in Manila were found to have high levels of lead and other heavy metals;

WHEREAS, Thony Dizon, coordinator of the EcoWaste's Project Protect, reportedly said that ninety-four out of the 200 toys analyzed had at least one hazardous substance like lead, which could put the health of young children in danger;

WHEREAS, it was reported that among the hazardous substances found in the samples were chemicals considered by the World Health Organization (WHO) as among the "10 chemicals of major public health concern" such as arsenic, cadmium, lead, and mercury;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the chemicals on WHO's record are also named in the Philippine Priority Chemicals List of 48 chemicals that could "pose unreasonable risks to public health, workplace and the environment," according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources;

WHEREAS, from September 18 to 21 this year, members of the EcoWaste Coalition reportedly bought assorted toys, which ranged in price from P10 to P180, from over 20 toy retailers and wholesalers in Divisoria, Ermita, Paco, Malate, Quiapo and Sta. Cruz, and screened said toys for heavy metals using a portable x-ray fluorescence spectrometer;

WHEREAS, the group claimed they found 47 percent or 94 of the 200 toys contained at least one toxic metal; that 76 of the 94 toxic toys had levels of lead above the 90 parts per million legal limit for lead in paints and surface coatings; and that none of the 94 toys had labels to warn consumers of the presence of toxic chemical ingredients;

WHEREAS, stringent measures must be imposed to curb, and eventually eliminate the importation and sale of toys that contain hazardous substances;

WHEREAS, regulation must become stricter at the point of importation, so as to prevent such harmful items from entering the Philippine market;

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 proliferation of toys laden with high levels of lead and other toxic heavy metals in Metro Manila.

Adopted,

our
Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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