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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 315

RECEIVED BY *Ji*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED SALE OF BANNED INSECTICIDE PRODUCTS
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 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 *Manila Bulletin*, in its 5 September 2013 issue, reported that banned insecticides are being sold in four cities in Metro Manila;

WHEREAS, the EcoWaste Coalition said its Alert Toxic Patrol found that 100 retail outlets in four cities in Metro Manila are selling the toxic and harmful products in the alert list of the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA);

WHEREAS, the products are reportedly sold in discount shopping centers, miscellaneous stores, and by ambulant street vendors in Manila, Makati, Parañaque, and Pasay;

WHEREAS, the FDA alert list was said to include nine insecticides sprays such as Baolilai Aerosol Insecticide, Big BiePai Aerosol Insecticide, Big BiePai Extra Power Flying Insect Killer, Butiki Water-Based Multi-Insect Killer, General Toad Aerosol Insecticide, Read a Dream Insecticide, Sun Universe Frogking Insecticide Aerosol, which are being sold in the market for P65 to P80 each;

WHEREAS, Thony Dizon, coordinator of EcoWaste's Project Protect, claimed that the sale of banned insect killers appears to be out of control;

WHEREAS, the FDA has issued an advisory that warned consumers that these unregistered insecticides did not pass the safety and efficacy standards of the agency;

WHEREAS, the FDA also warned against the following unregistered toxic insecticides being sold in the market: Wawang Mosquito Coil, Bao Ma Black Mosquito Repellant Incense Coil, Jinjiang Benna Mosquito Repellant Coil, Juzhongwang Black Mosquito Repellant Coil, Juzhongwang, Kingba Mini-Smoke Mosquito Repeller Coil, Tianshi Black Mosquito Repellant

Incense Coil, Read A Dream Black Mosquito Repellant Incense Coil, Green Leaf Powder Cockroach Killing Bait, and one unregistered toxic insect repellant to be sprayed on the body and clothing called Natural Insect Repellant Solution, which is distributed by Vitamin World Corporation;

WHEREAS, in two letters sent to the FDA, one on 2 September 2013 and the other on 4 September 2013, the EcoWaste Coalition called for the need for enforcement activities involving the local government and police authorities to promote awareness and support for FDA Advisory 2013-031, "a public warning from buying banned insecticides that are proliferating in the market," from both the business and consumer sectors;

WHEREAS, according to the news report, the EcoWaste Coalition reminded the public to opt for ecological and natural steps to safely manage household insects, pointing to the need to cut, if not eradicate, the use of toxic substances at home;

WHEREAS, environmental exposure to chemicals from consumer products are linked to major public health issues such as various cancers, cardiovascular diseases, autoimmune and neurological diseases, obesity and type II diabetes, pediatric asthma, and reproductive and development disorders;

WHEREAS, it is the obligation of the State to regulate the products being sold in the market and promote greater consumer awareness to toxic substances in consumer products by keeping them informed and educated on the effects of these substances to their health;

WHEREAS, given the dangers of exposure to toxic chemicals found in these banned insecticides, there is a need for the government to take regulatory action to ensure the immediate removal of these products in the market, and to call on the Bureau of Customs to remain vigilant and to step in and foil further shipments of these banned products in the country;

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 sale of banned insecticide products in Metro Manila.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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