

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



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 736

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID  
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALARMING REPORT ON THE INCREASING  
TEEN SMOKERS IN BAGUIO CITY

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 13 also provides: "State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs";

WHEREAS, in a report by the Sunstar Baguio online dated 24 June 2014, the Department of Health-Cordillera Administrative Region was alarmed by the prevalence of the smoking trend among teenagers in Baguio City;

WHEREAS, the report claimed that according to Dr. Donna Tubera, head of the City Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit of Baguio City Health Services Office, a Baguio Youth Tobacco Survey was conducted by the agency with the Saint Louis Laboratory-School of Medicine and findings show even teenagers are now challenged by the tobacco use epidemic;

WHEREAS, it was also reported that according to a study, among 1,000 student respondents from public high schools in Baguio, 28.1 percent are presently smoking, while 43 percent have ever tried smoking;

WHEREAS, the report claimed that prevalence in the smoking trend was found among the 13 to 15 year old age group;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the health chief questioned the lack of enforcement in the city's no smoking ordinance as to why minors have access to tobaccos when it is in fact prohibited;

WHEREAS, Dr. Tubera also claimed that advertisements, which were still posted in business establishments, tempt these teenagers;

WHEREAS, while Dr. Tubera reportedly admitted tobacco manufacturing is not easy to stop, she suggested manufacturers to cover 70% of their product with a graphic health warning to be placed in the upper part of the cigarette box so they may easily be seen by the consumers;

WHEREAS, there is a need for the government to intensify its campaign against smoking and a stricter measure by the City local government must be implemented;

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 alarming report of increasing teen smokers in Baguio City.

Adopted,

*Miriam Defensor Santiago*  
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MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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