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SENATE
P. S. R. No: 1659

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,
ON THE REPORT THAT THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS SEIZED
FIVE TONS OF UNDERVALUED SODIUM CYANIDE IN ORIENTAL MINDORO

1 WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 12, Section 6, provides:

2 The use of property bears a social function, and all economic agents shall
3 contribute to the common good. Individuals and private groups, including
4 corporations, cooperatives, and similar collective organizations, shall have the
5 right to own, establish, and operate economic enterprises, subject to the duty of
6 the State to promote distributive justice and to intervene when the common good
7 so demands.


8 WHEREAS, the *Manila Bulletin* on 21 October 2015 reported that the Bureau of
9 Customs (BOC) seized a total of five tons of sodium cyanide, allegedly to be delivered to mining
10 communities in Mindanao, at a port in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental, for lack of import permit,
11 undervaluation, and misdeclaration of the shipment's true quantity;

12 WHEREAS, the shipments were reportedly tagged suspicious because the importation
13 permits came from the Environmental Management Bureau based in Region 4 even when the
14 importation was done in Region 10;

15 WHEREAS, the Congress should strengthen and ensure the implementation of existing
16 legislation in order to stop smuggling in the country;

17 WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct
18 the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the report that the
19 Bureau of Customs seized five tons of undervalued sodium cyanide in Oriental Mindoro.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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