

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Third Regular Session )

6 JUL 26 74 50

SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 518

RECEIVED BY: TS

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION  
DIRECTING AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,  
ON THE REPORTED PRESENCE OF HEAVY METALS  
IN THE BODIES OF RESIDENTS OF SIX VILLAGES IN SORSOGON AND ALBAY  
ALLEGEDLY DUE TO EXPOSURE TO CONTAMINATED MATERIALS FROM  
MINING OPERATIONS

WHEREAS, in an article in the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, published on 27 April 2006, it was reported that, according to a study submitted to the Rapu-Rapu Fact-Finding Commission, residents of six villages in Sorsogon and Albay were found to have heavy metals in their bodies allegedly due to exposure to contaminated materials from a nearby mine;

WHEREAS, the study was done by a team led by Nelia Cortes-Maramba, professor emeritus at the University of the Philippines Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, upon the request of the Sorsogon provincial government;

WHEREAS, mercury, lead, cadmium, and arsenic were detected in urine and blood samples taken from members of 25 households in the towns of Gubat, Prieto-Diaz, Barcelona, Bacon, and Bulusan in Sorsogon, and one barangay in Legazpi City;

WHEREAS, Maramba said these chemicals are harmful, especially lead, which may affect a person's intelligence quotient (IQ) baseline;

WHEREAS, most of those who have lead and arsenic in their urine live close to the mine spills;

WHEREAS, the medical team was unable to determine the amount of arsenic, mercury, lead, and cadmium in the urine and blood samples of the residents because these were below the detection limits of the machines; however, this is not an assurance that the people are not exposed to heavy metals; now be it

RESOLVED, that the proper Senate committee conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reported presence of heavy metals in the bodies of residents of six villages in Sorsogon and Albay allegedly due to exposure to contaminated materials from mining operations;

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO