


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

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SENATE

P.S. RES. NO. 245

RECEIVED BY: 

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR PIA S. CAYETANO

A RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO INQUIRE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE SAFETY OF USING BOTTLED WATER

Whereas, clean and potable water is an essential necessity, without which life on earth is impossible;

Whereas, Filipinos consume 310 to 507 cubic meters of water daily, but not everyone has access to this;

Whereas, statistics from the Department of Health (DOH) showed only 76.3 percent of the more than 13.923 million households nationwide have access to safe water supply;

Whereas, there are reports that unscrupulous individuals take advantage of the demand for bottled water and represent tap water as purified or processed water;

Whereas, it is important to determine the safety and quality of the water contained in the bottle and ensure that strict standards are complied with in the categorization of the bottled water as mineral, distilled, purified or spring;

Whereas, while the use of bottled water gives numerous benefits to the people, various studies and reports show that the continued consumption of water contained in plastic bottles poses danger to human health and threat to the environment;

Whereas, an international environment watchdog reported in October 2007 that bottled water in the Philippines is unsafe due to the fact that bottled water purchased in Manila contain higher-than-usual level of zinc;

Whereas, a number of studies cite health risks on the compound of plastic bottles specifically Bisphenol A (BPA), which is a key building block in the manufacture of hard, polycarbonate plastics, including baby bottles, water bottles and other food and beverage containers;

Whereas, studies indicate that other compounds used in the manufacture of bottled water such as Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC #3), Polystyrene (#6) and Polycarbonate (#7) are harmful to human health;

Whereas, plastic bottles made of these chemicals are commercially available in the Philippines;

Whereas, the repetitive use of bottled water made of these compounds can result in the leaching of these chemicals and cause different diseases;

Whereas, based on the Family Income and Expenditures Survey in 2000, household spending for bottled water reached 2.4 billion pesos;

Whereas, according to the Manila-based University of Asia & the Pacific, Center for Food & Agribusiness, there are at least 21 local and 13 imported bottled water brands being sold in the Philippines;

Whereas, the unrestrained use of bottled water causes environmental damage as less than a quarter of empty water bottles are recycled and about 2 billion pounds annually end up in landfills and incinerators, by the side of the road, or in the sea;

Whereas, given these alarming reports and facts, it is necessary to inquire on the implications of the use of plastic bottled water to human health and to the environment;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Senate of the Philippines direct the Committees on Health and Demography and Environment and Natural Resources to inquire, in aid of legislation, on the implications of the use of plastic bottled water to the people's health and to the environment.

Adopted,


PIA S. CAYETANO
Senator