


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

8 JAN 15 2008

SENATE
P.S.R. No. 266

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REGULATION OF THE MANUFACTURE, SALE, POSSESSION, USE, AND DISPOSAL OF FIRECRACKERS, FIREWORKS, AND OTHER PYROTECHNIC DEVICES USED PRIMARILY FOR AESTHETIC AND ENTERTAINMENT PURPOSES

WHEREAS, every year, hundreds of people sustain injuries and millions' worth of property are damaged due to firecrackers, fireworks, and other pyrotechnic devices used primarily for aesthetic and entertainment purposes;

WHEREAS, a firecracker is a small explosive device primarily designed to produce a large amount of noise, especially in the form of a loud bang, with any visual effect being incidental to this goal;

WHEREAS, a firework, on the other hand is classified as a low explosive pyrotechnic device used primarily for aesthetic and entertainment purposes; the most common use of a firework is as part of a fireworks display; fireworks take many forms to produce the four primary effects: noise, light, smoke, and floating materials;

WHEREAS, firecrackers and fireworks are widely used in the Philippines during New Year celebrations; every year, hundreds of people, especially small children, sustain firecracker- and fireworks-related injuries during New Year revelries;

WHEREAS, a news article in the 4 January 2008 issue of *The Philippine Star* reported that the number of firecracker-related injuries has reached 756 cases according to statistics from the Department of Health (DOH);

WHEREAS, a record of the DOH's National Epidemiology Center (NEC) showed that of the 756 cases, 500 or 70 percent sustained blast/burn injury without amputation, 154 or 20 percent eye injury, and 55 or seven percent with amputation;

WHEREAS, according to the 2 January 2008 issue of the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, more than 200 people were hurt by firecracker blasts during the New Year's eve revelry in Central and Northern Luzon;

WHEREAS, most of the 47 victims in Bulacan reportedly suffered minor injuries and burns from kwitis;

WHEREAS, in Pangasinan, a 9-year-old boy from Pozzorubio reportedly lost his right hand while two other boys, aged 11 and 7, from Calasiao and Dagupan City lost two fingers each when the leftover firecrackers they found in the streets exploded in their hands;

WHEREAS, this year, the piccolo reportedly caused the most number of injuries other than any firecracker; the piccolo affected mostly children with minor burns and superficial eye injuries;

WHEREAS, the piccolo is followed in the list of most dangerous firecrackers by the kwitis, five-star, whistlebomb, and luces or sparklers;

WHEREAS, the number of injuries caused by fireworks during New Year celebrations in the country had gone down as low as 594 in 2001; firecracker-related injuries increased to 1,306 in 2006, following the introduction of the "boga" (an improvised PVC cannon) and the "piccolo" (small-sized firecracker) in the market;

WHEREAS, firecrackers, fireworks, and similar devices not only cause injuries and deaths, but also cause damage to property due to their improper manufacture, sale, storage, use, and disposal;

WHEREAS, last 31 December 2007, a lighted cigarette triggered explosions and a fire hitting a row of firecracker stalls in Bocaue, Bulacan; the explosions injured several people, razed firecracker stalls, and damaged nearby houses and commercial establishments;

WHEREAS, the alarming number of injuries and damage to property every year related to firecrackers, fireworks, and other pyrotechnic devices primarily used for aesthetic and entertainment purposes necessitate the regulation of the manufacture, sale, possession, use, and disposal of these materials;

WHEREAS, countries around the world have imposed strict regulations in the manufacture, sale, possession, use, and disposal of firecrackers, fireworks, and similar devices; in Malaysia, for example, playing with firecrackers is illegal; in Singapore, firecrackers are not allowed to be commercially sold, and their use must be approved by government agencies;

WHEREAS, the regulation of firecrackers, fireworks, and similar devices may take the form of prescribing their chemical component; designating places where they can be sold or used; proscribing their sale to persons below 18 years old; prohibiting their use by minors; or imposing a total ban on their manufacture, sale, possession, and use;

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 regulation of the manufacture, sale, possession, use, and disposal of firecrackers, fireworks, and other pyrotechnic devices used primarily for aesthetic and entertainment purposes.

Approved,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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