

10 JUL 21 P3:03

SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 37

RECEIVED BY 

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES IN THE SENATE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE URGENT CALL TO ELIMINATE THE RISK OF ASBESTOS EXPOSURE AND ASBESTOS-RELATED ILLNESSES BY BANNING THE IMPORTATION, MANUFACTURE, PROCESSING OR COMMERCIAL DISTRIBUTION OF ASBESTOS-CONTAINING PRODUCTS AS THEY POSE GRAVE DANGER TO THE HEALTH AND WELL BEING OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC

WHEREAS, the protection of public health is a paramount policy issue especially as this principle echoes the constitutional mandate of the State to protect the health of its citizens and to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential health services available to the people;

WHEREAS, asbestos, which is often called the "magic mineral" because of its unique chemical composition, is used for many construction products like tiles and cement. Asbestos is widely used in the construction industry, often being mixed with cement or woven into fabric or mats used for roofing, coatings, friction products and insulation;

WHEREAS, according to Lung Center of the Philippines pulmonologist Dr. Dina V. Diaz, during the 1st Asbestos Forum spearheaded by the Philippine Ban Asbestos Network (PBAN) at the Occupational Health and Safety Center (OHSC) in Quezon City, microscopic airborne asbestos fibers are carcinogenic substances, and when inhaled, can cause various types of pulmonary diseases such as: calcified pleural plaques (thickening of the parietal pleura on the lower chest walls and diaphragm); Asbestosis (most common lung disease from asbestos, or 'scarring' of the lungs); asbestos-related lung cancer (cancer of the inner lining of the lung); and mesothelioma (the most serious type of asbestos disease – a tumor on the outer lining of the lung that is usually fatal within two years of diagnosis);

WHEREAS, asbestosis is an irreversible and progressive lung condition which results from the inhalation of asbestos fibers over an extended period. In asbestosis, lung tissue is scarred and thickened by the action of the asbestos fibers in the alveoli, the air sacks. The latency period for asbestosis is usually at least ten years and the higher the exposure, the greater the chances of developing the disease;

WHEREAS, there is no known cure for lung diseases caused by asbestos. The most doctors can do is provide treatment for symptomatic relief from dry cough,

immunization for other ailments that lung diseases can trigger, and immediate remedy for shortness of breath;

WHEREAS, asbestos is classified as one of the highest cancer-hazard substances with no safe level of exposure. Asbestos fibers form a very fine dust invisible to the naked eye that penetrate deep into the lungs when inhaled. This makes asbestos dangerous to everyone;

WHEREAS, data indicate that Metro Manila-based asbestos companies are importing 4,000 metric tons of asbestos annually for use in asbestos fiber cement boards, packaging materials, gaskets, friction and mechanical parts such as brakes and automotive clutches;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to eliminate the risk of asbestos exposure and asbestos-related illnesses by banning the importation, manufacture, processing or commercial distribution of asbestos-containing products as they pose grave danger to the health and well-being of the general public.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as it is hereby resolved to direct the Senate Committees on Health and Demography and other appropriate Committees in the Senate to conduct an inquiry, *in aid of legislation*, into the urgent call to eliminate the risk of asbestos exposure and asbestos-related illnesses by banning the importation, manufacture, processing or commercial distribution of asbestos-containing products as they pose grave danger to the health and well being of the general public.

ADOPTED,


MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator *mi*