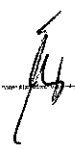


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session

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SENATE

S. Res. No. 737

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Manny Villar

RESOLUTION

**URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD AND
OTHER APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY
INTO THE REPORTED PRESENCE OF MELAMINE IN PET FEEDS WITH THE
END-IN-VIEW OF ADOPTING PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TO
SAFEGUARD PET FEEDS AVAILABLE IN THE LOCAL MARKET**

WHEREAS, melamine contamination of China-manufactured dairy products which reported to have caused four infant deaths and sickened at least 54,000 other Chinese children has reverberated worldwide as a serious health threat;

WHEREAS, as early as 2007, there were already confirmed reports that other food and non-food products imported from China are tainted with chemical substances unfit for human use or consumption;

WHEREAS, some of these identified Chinese products which were tested to contain toxic and poisonous chemical substances are as follows:

- **CANDY** – white rabbit creamy candy, yili fruit bar yoghurt and the dutch lady strawberry-flavored milk were found to have contained melamine as reported by the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority of Singapore. Also, the Philippine's Bureau of Food and Drugs had affirmed white rabbit and three other food products from China of containing a poisonous chemical substance formaldehyde or formalin.
- **SEAFOOD** – the U.S. government has banned fish and shrimp imported from China which were reported to contain cancer-causing (particularly in the liver) chemical compound called malachite green.
- **TOOTHPASTE** – In June 2007, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has discouraged the purchase and use of Chinese toothpaste which have been found to contain a high level of solvent called diethylene glycol (DEG). DEG which was found in the drug Elixir Sulfanilamide has caused the death of some 107 people in the US following the drug intake.
- **TOYS** – also in 2007, the US Consumer Products Safety Commission prohibited the selling of China-manufactured children's jewelry due to lead contamination. Toy magnate Mattel also recalled more than 10 million children's products made in China for having excessive levels of lead paint. Based on medical studies, exposure to high levels of lead could cause anemia, kidney abnormalities and brain damage.

- *EYE PRODUCTS* – the US FDA also confirmed the presence of lead in eight brands of kohl or eye shadow that are made in China. On the other hand, the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention tested positive for bacterial parasites contact lens solution imported from China.

WHEREAS, at the height of concerns and fears over melamine-contaminated milk products as well as other Chinese food and non-food items that contain toxins and other harmful chemical substances, comes yet another controversy;

WHEREAS, there are reports that 1,500 dogs in Northeast China have died after eating animal feed verified to be tainted with the same chemical compound melamine;

WHEREAS, according to a Chinese veterinarian who performed the necropsy-an animal autopsy, the dogs that were fed with the tainted product suffered kidney failure wherein 25 percent of the stones found in the kidney were made up of melamine;

WHEREAS, prior to the melamine scare that prompted countries worldwide to recall dairy products from China, the U.S. FDA in 2007 recorded 14 cases of animal deaths which have been likely caused by their consumption of melamine-contaminated wheat gluten-a component of pet feeds imported from China;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 8485 or the Animal Welfare Act of 1998 was enacted to promote the welfare and protection of all animals whether they are objects of trade or household pets;

WHEREAS, reading from the provisions of R.A. 8485, the subject law is merely confined into the supervision and regulation of the establishment, operation and maintenance of animal dwellings, transport safety nets and safeguards on animal cruelty but none was mentioned however, as to measures that would regulate and supervise imported or locally-manufactured animal feeds that may contain contaminants;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED to urge the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Food and other appropriate Senate Committees to conduct an inquiry into the reported mixture of melamine including other toxic and poisonous chemical substances in animal feeds with the intention of legislating measures that would protect the same from contamination.

Adopted,



MANNY VILLAR