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SENATE
P.S. RES. NO. 208

RECEIVED BY 

Introduced by Senator Manny B. Villar

RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY TO IMPLEMENT AN EFFECTIVE MECHANISM TO PERMANENTLY CURB THE AVALANCHE OF DEFECTIVE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS IN THE MARKET WHEREIN THEIR USE CAUSE POTENTIAL HARM TO THE PROPERTY AND LIFE OF THE FILIPINO CONSUMERS.

Whereas, the Constitution also provides that “[t]he State shall protect consumers from trade malpractices and from substandard or hazardous products (Article XVI, Section 9);”

Whereas, Christmas is barely three months away causing retailers to increase their stocks of Christmas decorations, ornament and lights;

Whereas, the supply of Christmas ornamentals peak during the last quarter of the year as Filipino consumers prepare and decorate their homes for the Christmas season;

Whereas, most of these Christmas ornamentals, especially Christmas lights, are imported from various countries and such ornamentals have yet to meet the standards and specifications set by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), particularly its Bureau of Product Standards (BPS);

Whereas, defective, faulty and substandard Christmas lights are potential hazards to the public as it can cause fires and even explosions due to their thin wires and little insulation making it prone to short circuiting;

Whereas, in the previous years, the country bore witness to numerous fire incidents which killed families and gutted their homes;

Whereas, following the trend in the past years where substandard imported Christmas lights flooded the market, there is reasonable concern that such defective Christmas lights will once again proliferate the market comes this Christmas season;

Whereas, this early, it is necessary that the government take proactive steps to curb importation of defective Christmas lights;

Whereas, it is imperative for the DTI to effectively implement a mechanism for easy identification of items that meet the standards of DTI-BPS thus amply informing the public to purchase only those Christmas lights and decors that are marked safe and tested by the said agency and at the same time ensuring that these marks are hard to copy;

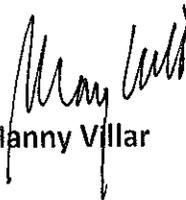
Whereas, coordination with the local police force is also imminent to mobilize operations that will crackdown importers that smuggle these unsafe Christmas lights, and also the wholesalers and retailers that patronize the distribution and sale of the same;

Whereas, the law is not lacking on this matter as administrative penalties are extant which penalizes manufacturers, importers, wholesalers and retailers found selling uncertified products as demarcated in the Republic Act 7394 or otherwise known as the Consumer Act of the Philippines;

Whereas, despite the foregoing, this issue on substandard Christmas lights is a perennial problem faced by the country every time the Christmas season starts and the call for a permanent and effective solution is needed;

RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to urge the Department of Trade and Industry to implement an effective mechanism to permanently curb the avalanche of defective Christmas lights in the market wherein their use cause potential harm to the property and life of the Filipino consumers.

Adopted.


Manny Villar