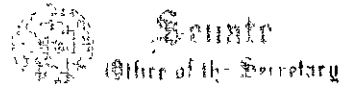
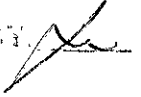


FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )



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S E N A T E

RECORDED BY 

P. S. Res. No. **560**

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

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**RESOLUTION**  
**URGING THE COMMITTEES ON TRADE AND COMMERCE, HEALTH AND**  
**DEMOGRAPHY AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN**  
**INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PROLIFERATION OF TOYS WITH**  
**TOXIC AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES AND COMPONENTS IN THE PHILIPPINE**  
**MARKET WITH THE END IN VIEW OF FORMULATING STRICTER MEASURES TO**  
**PROTECT FILIPINO CHILDREN**

*Whereas*, Section 15 of Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides that:

“The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them”;

*Whereas*, scientists from the International POPS Elimination Network (Ipen), a global environmental group, randomly picked up toys from malls and street stalls in Davao City and tested them using handheld devices called XRF or x-ray florescence analyzers<sup>1</sup>;

*Whereas*, their tests yielded findings that the tested imported toys contain toxic elements, including lead and cadmium;

*Whereas*, one of the scientists and the Ipen group’s senior science and policy adviser, Dr. Joseph DiGangi, placed the XRF on a puzzle mat which is commonly used in nursery and preschool classrooms locally and found out that the same contains lead that is five times the US regulatory limit of 90 parts per million (ppm);

*Whereas*, out of the 135 toys sampled, 22 were found to contain different toxic heavy metals like cadmium, chromium, mercury, lead, arsenic, antimony and others;

*Whereas*, many of the toys were made in China while the others were made in Korea, Thailand and the United States;

*Whereas*, according to Dr. Romy Quijano, a toxicologist from the University of the Philippines, lead, mercury and other heavy metals in toys can cause brain damage and other serious illnesses in children;

*Whereas*, children are still vulnerable to objects containing lead even without physical contact because the poison can mix with particles in the air;

*Whereas*, this problem is not only confined to the Davao City locality but is a national and global consumer issue;

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<sup>1</sup> “Toxic toys find way into Davao malls, stalls” by Germelina Lacorte, Philippine Daily Inquirer, July 28, 2011

*Whereas*, according to a study conducted by the Ecology Center, a Michigan-based consumer safety organization in the US, 1,500 popular children's toys contained potentially harmful levels of lead, arsenic, mercury, and other dangerous chemicals<sup>2</sup>;


*Whereas*, other major issues associated with chemicals in children's toys have also focused on *phthalates*, a group of chemical compounds typically added to plastics to increase their softness and flexibility, and according to some scientists, may cause infertility in boys<sup>3</sup>;

*Whereas*, another dangerous chemical is *bisphenol A*, a building block for polycarbonate plastic that is used in common plastic products such as shatter-resistant baby bottles and in the linings of food and beverage cans, and is linked, according to experiments, to the disruption of hormone function in rats, and to increased breast and prostate cancer cell growth, early puberty and obesity in humans<sup>4</sup>;

*Whereas*, consistent with State policy to promote the right to health of the people, the government and other concerned agencies, should look into the importation of these harmful and toxic toys and establish stricter measures to prevent its entry into the country, formulating and executing policies in order to confiscate those which have already infiltrated our local markets, and create a framework to address and cure the ill-effects of these toxic toys to our children;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Committees on Trade and Commerce, Health and Demography, and other appropriate committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the proliferation of toys with toxic and hazardous substances and components in the Philippine market with the end in view of formulating stricter measures to protect Filipino children.

Adopted,

  
MANNY VILLAR  
Senator

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<sup>2</sup> [http://www.forbes.com/2008/12/16/toys-product-safety-biz-commerce-cx\\_wp\\_1216toxictoys.html](http://www.forbes.com/2008/12/16/toys-product-safety-biz-commerce-cx_wp_1216toxictoys.html)

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.pbs.org/now/shows/412/>

<sup>4</sup> [http://environment.about.com/od/healthandchildren/a/toxic\\_toys.htm](http://environment.about.com/od/healthandchildren/a/toxic_toys.htm)