

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF THE REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Resolution No. 27



Introduced by

REP. ARLENE D. BROSAS (Gabriela Women's Party);
REP. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE, REP. FERDINAND R. GAITE, and REP. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT
(Bayan Muna Partylist); REP. FRANCE L. CASTRO (ACT Teachers' Partylist);
and REP. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO (Kabataan Partylist)

**RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED VIOLATIONS OF THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY
AND HEALTH (OSH) STANDARDS LAW BY PEERLESS PRODUCTS MANUFACTURING CORPORATION
(PEPMACO) IN ITS CANLUBANG, LAGUNA PLANT AND ON THE HEALTH RISKS FACED BY FEMALE
PEPMACO WORKERS**

WHEREAS, Article XIII, Section 3 of the 1987 Constitution affirms that "the State shall afford full protection to labor, local and overseas, organized and unorganized, and promote full employment opportunities for all;

WHEREAS, Section 1 of the Republic Act No. 11058 or commonly known as the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Standards Law affirms that the State "shall ensure a safe and healthful workplace for all working people by affording them full protection against all hazards in their work environment;

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the same law states that "every employer, contractor or subcontractor, if any, shall provide his workers, free of charge, protective equipment for their eyes, face, hands and feet, and lifeline, safety belt or harness, gas or dust respirators or masks, and protective shields whenever necessary by reason of the hazardous work process or environment";

WHEREAS, Peerless Products Manufacturing Corporation (PEPMACO), which is owned by businessman Simeon Tiu and which manufactures the Champion and Calla detergent powder and Hana shampoo through its production plant in Canlubang, Laguna, employs around 500 workers under circumstances that seriously endanger the occupational health of its workforce;

WHEREAS, PEPMACO workers are chronically exposed to surfactant, the main ingredient in the manufacture of detergent powder and shampoo, which are found to have severe external and internal effects on the human body due to its toxicity;

WHEREAS, PEPMACO workers recounted that the company does not provide personal protective equipment (PPE) to its workers such as gloves and industrial face masks, forcing workers to just use handkerchiefs to cover their nose and mouth while at work;

WHEREAS, they also said that there is no exhaust fan and proper ventilation within the PEPMACO production plant, thereby trapping the chemical dusts and chemicals inside the workplace which are then absorbed by the workers in large quantities daily;

WHEREAS, several female PEPMACO workers suffered miscarriages and other maternal health concerns that are potentially linked to the exposure of workers to the chemicals used in the factory;

WHEREAS, PEPMACO workers also shared that there is no doctor and nurse on standby in the production plant, and that the company's clinic is always closed;

WHEREAS, results of the labor inspection conducted by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) – Region IV confirm the narratives of workers about the dismal and inhumane working conditions;

WHEREAS, results of labor inspection indicate that 1) access to fire extinguishers in the production area is blocked 2) there is poor housekeeping and ventilation at the production area 3) there is improper material and chemical handling 4) lack of personal protective equipment (PPE) for employees 5) there are no markings for walkways and forklift operations 6) there is lack of safety signages at the production area 7) there is no company physician 8) there is insufficient safety personnel to enforce Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) standards;

WHEREAS, PEPMACO stands as a test case for the review of the implementation of the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Standards Law in view of the reported failures in complying with the provision of the OSH Law regarding workers' health and safety;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, THAT THE RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED VIOLATIONS OF THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH (OSH) STANDARDS LAW BY PEERLESS PRODUCTS MANUFACTURING CORPORATION (PEPMACO) IN ITS CANLUBANG, LAGUNA PLANT AND THE HEALTH RISKS FACED BY WOMEN WORKERS.

Adopted,


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