

A CALL TO ENVIRONMENTAL VIGILANCE AND ACTION

POSITION PAPER OF THE NAGKAKAISANG MAMAMAYAN NG MAGUYAM AND CAVITE GREEN COALITION

WHEREAS the RIGHT TO A BALANCED AND HEALTHY ECOLOGY is a basic human right enshrined in the Philippine Constitution

WHEREAS toxic and hazardous waste from industries and waste treatment facilities pose hazards to people's health and to land, air, and water, such substances include heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants

WHEREAS some of these substances in their nano particles are not efficiently captured by anti-pollution devices, travel long distances, remain suspended for long periods of time and can penetrate deeply into the lungs and once having entered the bloodstream can easily cross the membranes of every tissue in the body

Whereas chemical hazards such as mercury, lead, cadmium, brominated flame retardants among others are associated with cancer, immune system deficiencies, hormonal disorders and are neurotoxic

WHEREAS the most vulnerable to these hazards are children and the elderly; the former because some parts the body that protect adults from pollution are not yet well developed in babies and children; and the latter because their bodies immune system are no longer as strong when they were younger

Whereas the presence of copper in the bodies of five Maguyam residents and mercury in two others were detected in a laboratory analysis done in January 2010; further, recorded deaths from cancer of Ronnie Adrao, 12 years old, in November 2009, and Noreen Joyce Tagle and Lorraine Austria, bone cancer, Dorotea Jaron, breast cancer and Mary Jane Manaig, throat cancer in 2010 are disturbing;

RESOLVED THEREFORE TO PETITION THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO ADOPT THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE AND TAKE THE FOLLOWING MEASURES:

- * Have a moratorium on the grant of new business permits to industries whose businesses are related to waste treatment
- * Conduct a Chemical Safety Focus Group Discussion among the Committees on Health and Environment of the Municipal Government of Silang and the Provincial Government of Cavite
- * Conduct 3rd party evaluation of toxic at hazardous waste facilities in Silang and in other municipalities in the province

* Conduct a review of the permitting procedures of the local government as it relates to toxic and hazardous waste facilities; ensure that barangay consultations involving all stakeholders are held as a pre-requisite to the issuance of business permits

* Formulate an environmental monitoring plan and organize an environmental monitoring task force at the barangay level where the toxic waste treatment facilities are and at the municipal level

Signed by:

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