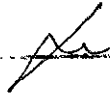


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS)
OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

9 APR 16 P1:55

SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 985

RECEIVED BY: 

INTRODUCED BY THE HONORABLE MAR ROXAS

A RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S FOOD FOR SCHOOL PROGRAM, PARTICULARLY ON THE REPORTED DISTRIBUTION OF OVERPRICED AND ZERO-NUTRITIONAL VALUE INSTANT NOODLES TO PRE-SCHOOL AND GRADE ONE PUPILS NATIONWIDE TO ENSURE THE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM IN IMPROVING THE CONDITION OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH OF SCHOOLCHILDREN AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, Section 1, Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution mandates the State to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education and to take appropriate measures to make such education accessible to all;

WHEREAS, Section 13, Article II of the Philippine Constitution directs the State to promote and protect the physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being of the youth;

WHEREAS, studies have shown that undernourishment hinders the active participation of a pupil from classroom activities and has been one of the major causes of the high drop out rate among pupils;

WHEREAS, in 2005, the Department of Education initiated its Food for School Program (FSP) with the aim to mitigate hunger among school children and their families in priority provinces and improve pupils' school performance and attendance by providing one kilo of iron-fortified rice per class day for a limited period of time;

WHEREAS, since the implementation of FSP in 2005, incidence of malnutrition among public elementary school children dropped from 21% in 2006 to 17% in 2007, and school attendance improved from 90% in 2006 to 95% in 2007;

WHEREAS, based on news reports, the Department of Education (DepEd) distributed 15 million packs of 100g instant noodles to 800,000 pre-school and grade one pupils nationwide for its Food for School Program in 2008;

WHEREAS, according to ABS-CBN television reports dated 14 and 15 April 2009, Kolonwel Trading, a losing bidder supplier for the Food for School Program of

the Department of Education (DepEd) revealed that the noodles distributed last year to pre-school and grade one students were overpriced, had zero nutritional value and did not contain any “fresh egg” as stated in the package;

WHEREAS, Dennis Quido, sales manager at the Kolonwel Trading, stated that the instant noodles supplied by Jeverps Manufacturing Corporation to DepEd, which were priced at Php18 per 100g pack and amounting to a total of Php284 million for 15 million packs, were overpriced by more than 100% as compared to the Php6-7 per 55g pack price of ordinary noodles in the market;

WHEREAS, for this year, Jeverps again won the bidding for more than 19 million packs of noodles priced at more than P427 million, translating to Php22 per 100g pack of noodles.

WHEREAS, Education Undersecretary Ted Sangil denied the project was overpriced explaining that the purchase of the instant noodles was conducted through a public bidding where only Jeverps Manufacturing Corporation satisfies the requirement;

WHEREAS, news reports also stated the claims that the noodles contain egg and nutritional values were false based on laboratory tests made by experts in Vietnam, Malaysia, Hong Kong, and South Korea through the initiative of Kolonwel Trading;

WHEREAS, the Department of Education clarified that the fresh eggs were pre-mixed in the noodles and maintained that the noodles had higher nutritional values as they contained more vitamins, iron and minerals, including malunggay;

WHEREAS, it is imperative for the government to promote and protect the welfare of our youth by creating programs and projects which are responsive to their needs and prioritize their interest in every decision they make;

WHEREAS, there is also a need to further look into the Department of Education’s procurement of food, medicines, textbooks, equipment, and other similar items relevant to the implementation of its various programs to ensure transparency in its procurement process and protect the welfare our students and our people;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Senate direct the Senate Committee on Education, Arts and Culture to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the Department of Education’s Food for School Program, particularly on the reported distribution of overpriced and zero-nutritional value instant noodles to pre-school and grade one pupils nationwide to ensure the efficient and effective implementation of the program in improving the condition of education and health of schoolchildren and for other purposes.

Adopted,


M A R ROXAS
Senator