



SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

14 JAN 23 P2 50

SENATE
P.S.R No. 463

RECEIVED BY: fi

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT THAT SLIMMING AND ANTI-OBESITY PILLS BANNED BY THE FOOD AND DRUG AUTHORITY ARE BEING SOLD AND DISTRIBUTED IN THE COUNTRY THROUGH THE INTERNET AND IN LOCAL STORES

WHEREAS, Article II Section 15 of the Constitution provides: "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them";

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Star* published a news article on its 12 January 2014 issue which reported that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) warned the public on several banned and unregistered slimming and anti-obesity pills being sold on the Internet and in stores all over the country;

WHEREAS, it was reported that FDA acting director general Dr. Kenneth Hartigan-Go said that these products may contain harmful ingredients, and that the FDA has banned and confiscated at least 26 slimming products marketed as oral capsules or coffee drinks for containing amphetamine, sibutramine, and steroids;

WHEREAS, the article identified these products as Hokkaido Slimming Pills, Ballet Dancer Fat Reducing, Bio-Lissom Fat Reducing, Brazilian Slimming Coffee, Cell Life Slimming Coffee, Elegant Shape Fat Reducing, Goodliness Fat Reducing, Happyslim, Leisure 18 Slimming Coffee, Lightness Fat Reducing, Maggie Fitness Essence, Me i Shen Ting Anti-Obesity, Modeling Fat-Reducing, New Original Lightness Fat-Reducing, Pearl White Slimming, Perfect Figure Slimming, Perfect Slim Fat Reduction Cosmetic, Perfect Slim Purely Natural Fat Reduction Cosmetic, Pill for Weight Reduction, Pretty Model, Qiaomei Fat Binder, Qi Xian Nu, Seven Days Miracle, Shaping Body Fat Loss, Slim and Beauty Slimming, Slim Up Extra Whitening and Reducing, and Xianzimei Fat Reduction;

WHEREAS, FDA officials reportedly warned that amphetamines could cause irregular heartbeat, confusion, urine retention and painful urination, hyperthermia, hyperreflexia, muscle pain, severe agitation, rapid breathing, and tremor;

WHEREAS, citing scientific studies, the news article reported that sibutramine increases the risk of non-fatal heart attack and stroke as well as death by 16 percent, and that the users did not lose much weight;

WHEREAS, the FDA reportedly advised consumers to use only FDA-approved slimming pills or anti-obesity drugs under the supervision of doctors, and ordered its inspectors to seize unregistered slimming products or those containing amphetamine, sibutramine, and steroids from all outlets;

WHEREAS, the FDA also called on local government units and enforcement agencies to close down outlets and establishments that sell banned or unregistered health products, and for the Bureau of Customs to prevent the entry of banned products in the Philippine market;

WHEREAS, it is imperative for the State to create stricter guidelines and harsher penalties for those who are selling products that are health hazards;

WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the report that slimming and anti-obesity pills banned by the Food and Drug Authority are being sold and distributed in the country through the internet and in local stores.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
ack

/RJD