

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



'14 FEB -6 P2:15

SENATE
P.S.R No. 488

RECEIVED BY: *jf*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT FROM THE FOOD AND DRUGS ADMINISTRATION THAT THERE ARE PEANUT PRODUCTS IN THE MARKET THAT ARE CONTAMINATED BY AFLATOXIN B1

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 13, Section 11, provides: "The State shall establish and maintain an effective food and drug regulatory system and undertake appropriate health, manpower development, and research, responsive to the country's health needs and problems":

WHEREAS, various news agencies in 23 January 2014 reported that the FDA urged the government to ban peanut products in the market that may contain Aflatoxin;

WHEREAS, Aflatoxin B1, produced by the mold *Aspergillus flavus*, is known as anti-nutritional or anti-nutrient toxin that binds proteins, vitamins, and minerals so that the body cannot absorb the nutrients;

WHEREAS, the FDA reportedly said they found Aflatoxin B1 beyond the acceptable limit in the tested samples of peanut products made here and abroad;

WHEREAS, the FDA warned the public from purchasing and consuming peanut products that are possibly laden with Aflatoxin B1;

WHEREAS, it was reported that Aflatoxin B1 can stunt growth in children and can lead to kwashiorkor; it could also inhibit the immune system especially if ingested over a prolonged period of time in large doses;

WHEREAS, an FDA advisory said that prolonged exposure to Aflatoxin B1 increases the risk of developing cancer cells, most commonly liver cancer;

WHEREAS, FDA officials reportedly said it is important to test peanut-based products made in the Philippines before they are exported, and that the agency will also test peanut products sold in streets or sidewalks;


WHEREAS, FDA officials also advised the public to buy only FDA-registered prepackaged peanuts, grain products, and milk products from FDA-licensed food manufacturers;

WHEREAS, while it is clear the FDA is committed to its mandate of protecting the health of Filipino consumers, Congress should augment its effort in preventing food companies

from producing and selling products contaminated with Aflotoxin B1, either through prohibition, regulation, or recommending alternatives or replacement for them;

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 from the Food and Drugs Administration that there are peanut products in the market that are contaminated by Aflotoxin B1.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
RP

/RJD