

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



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SENATE

P. S. Resolution No. 1444

RECEIVED BY: J

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Introduced by SENATOR LOREN LEGARDA

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD, AND OTHER RELEVANT COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE, TO INVESTIGATE IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE ALLEGED PROLIFERATION OF SYNTHETIC RICE WHICH CONTAINS PLASTICIZERS THAT MAY ADVERSELY AFFECT PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH**

**WHEREAS**, Section 15, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution declares that "the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them;"

**WHEREAS**, Section 9, Article XVI of the Constitution further provides that the State "shall protect consumers from trade malpractices and from substandard or hazardous products."

**WHEREAS**, additionally, Section 3, Article I of the Food Safety Act of 2013 stipulates that the State shall also "protect the public from food-borne and water-borne illnesses and unsanitary, unwholesome, misbranded or adulterated foods."

**WHEREAS**, there have been recent reports of sale of fake rice in Davao City, which seemed to be mixed with a "contaminant" and "had the appearance of stypopor, a synthetic packaging material;"

**WHEREAS**, initial tests by the National Food Authority (NFA) revealed, although not yet conclusive, that the synthetic rice "seemed to contain dibutyl phthalate (DBP), a plasticizer used for the manufacture of cosmetics;"

**WHEREAS**, scientists have yet to determine the effect of prolonged period of repeated ingestion of synthetic rice, but experts from the Department of Health cite infertility, among a list of repercussions of eating "fake rice";

**WHEREAS**, it is the responsibility of the concerned government agencies to investigate how synthetic rice entered the country, to know the possible side effects and to ensure that consumers are protected from "substandard" products;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED,** to direct the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Food, and other relevant committees of the Senate, to investigate in aid of legislation, the alleged proliferation of synthetic rice which contains plasticizers that may adversely affect public safety and health.

Adopted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'LOREN LEGARDA', written over a horizontal line.

**LOREN LEGARDA**

Senator