

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

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

7 OCT 11 2000

SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 158

RECEIVED: _____
Jey

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY AND TRADE AND COMMERCE, AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES IN THE SENATE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE WIDESPREAD USE OF THE SUGAR SUBSTITUTE NEOTOGEN, WITH A SCIENTIFIC NAME OF SODIUM CYCLAMATE, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS MAGIC SUGAR AS SWEETENER FOR MANY JUICE DRINKS, BEVERAGES AND FOOD PRODUCTS IN THE COUNTRY AND URGING ITS IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL FROM THE SHELVES AND BANNING FROM THE MARKET, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF PROTECTING THE HEALTH AND WELL BEING OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC AGAINST THIS CARCINOGENIC PRODUCT

WHEREAS, the protection of public health is the primary duty of the State, as it is its mission to promote and protect the well being of its citizens;

WHEREAS, on August 7, 2000, the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) of the Department of Health (DOH) issued Advisory No. 0005 warning the public against the use of magic sugar and emphasized that the use of neotogen or magic sugar as food sweetener is prohibited due to its evidence of carcinogenicity in animals;

WHEREAS, said advisory from BFAD indicated that neotogen or magic sugar is not registered with the BFAD and that any importation, distribution or sale of neotogen or magic sugar is prohibited under the provisions of Republic Act No. 3720, otherwise known as the "Foods, Drugs, Devices and Cosmetics Act";

WHEREAS, despite this advisory from the BFAD, neotogen or magic sugar is continuously being sold in the local markets as substitute for table sugar as sweetener for many beverages, cakes, pastries, preserved fruits, ice cream products and other sweets in the country;

WHEREAS, recent newspaper reports indicate that several shipments of sacks of neotogen or magic sugar have been seized by the Bureau of Customs at the Makar wharf in General Santos City. This banned product was smuggled into the country by Indonesian producers through the "backdoor" or ports in Mindanao;

WHEREAS, newspaper reports also indicate that more than 100 kilos of the banned sodium cyclamate, commonly known as "magic sugar", have been seized in

San Nicolas, Binondo, Manila giving signal to the fact that the same may have been sold in the Metro Manila area, thus posing serious threat to the health and well-being of the millions of consumers in Metro Manila;

WHEREAS, there is ample evidence to show that local street vendors in Metro Manila still use neotogen or magic sugar because this is a cheaper and sweeter substitute than cane sugar in selling their juice drinks. This less expensive but sweeter magic sugar is being used as an alternative to the regular sugar. It is also possible that bakeries and other "sweetshops" may be selling their bread or pastries laced with sodium cyclamate to the populace;

WHEREAS, it is estimated that a large container of street juice drinks will need at least one (1) kilo of refined sugar which will cost about Php 36.00 to achieve the desired sweetness, while it will only take a spoonful of neotogen or magic sugar to sweeten a large container of street juice drinks at the cost of Php 15.00 per 100 grams;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need for the Department of Health (DOH) to conduct a massive public information campaign against the sale and use of neotogen or magic sugar in our food products in order to protect the health and well-being of the millions of public consumers in this country;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need for the Department of Education (DepEd) to direct all school administrators and supervisors to educate the children and teachers on the hazards and effect of the magic sugar to their health and warn them of the effects of neotogen or magic sugar which is often used as sweetener to food being sold at school premises;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to provide stiffer penalties for those unscrupulous traders promoting this product as neotogen or magic sugar poses serious health risks and hazards to the well being of the general public in this country.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as it is hereby resolved to direct the Senate Committees on Health and Demography and Trade and Commerce, and other appropriate Committees in the Senate to conduct an inquiry, *in aid of legislation*, into the widespread use of the sugar substitute neotogen, with a scientific name of sodium cyclamate, otherwise known as magic sugar as sweetener for many juice drinks, beverages and food products in the country and urging its immediate withdrawal from the shelves and banning from the market, with the end in view of protecting the health and well being of the general public against this carcinogenic product.

ADOPTED,


MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID.
Senator