

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



13 SEP 11 P5:17

SENATE
P.S.R. No. 249

RECEIVED

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED FAKE VITAMINS SOLD TO THE PARENTS OF SCHOOLCHILDREN IN CAGAYAN BY SALESPERSONS CLAIMING TO HAVE APPROVAL FROM THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND ENDORSEMENT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

WHEREAS, the *Manila Bulletin*, in an article "Fake vitamins sold in Cagayan" published last 2 September 2013, reported that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) warned consumers against buying alleged fake vitamins in syrup form, which claims it has been endorsed by the Department of Education (DepEd) and is being sold directly to a school in Cagayan;

WHEREAS, FDA reportedly issued the advisory recently after receiving complaints from concerned citizens in Cagayan about the health product labeled as "Citrange" syrup, which is purportedly being manufactured by Valenzuela City-based Linderbergh Food Products Valley;

WHEREAS, it was reported that Linderbergh, which had an FDA license to operate (RDII-MM-F-2454) that expired in 2008, was not authorized to manufacture the product because its permit only covered flavored drink concentrates;

WHEREAS, it was reported that salespersons were selling Citrange to parents of school children at a price of P380 per bottle, claiming it will cure illnesses like asthma and improve memory retention;

WHEREAS, it was also reported that parents who bought the product allegedly complained that Citrange made their children sleepy or lazy in attending in class;

WHEREAS, FDA officials reportedly said Citrange is not included in its list of registered vitamin syrup brands;

WHEREAS, FDA officials were quoted saying some parents were deceived not only because of the claimed benefits but because there is a letter, allegedly from the DepEd, being shown by the peddler;

WHEREAS, FDA officials reportedly warned consumers to be wary for products claiming to be approved by the FDA and endorsed by DepEd;

WHEREAS, the FDA announcement also advised the public and consumers, especially the children and parents, not to fall prey to the marketing schemes of unscrupulous peddlers;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the FDA also advised school administration to be more stringent in allowing unauthorized personnel in entering their school grounds, that they should be more vigilant to ensure that the products being sold inside school premises is FDA-registered, and that they should be more cautious before entering into an agreement or receiving sponsorship from food and drug establishments;

WHEREAS, despite the swift action taken by the FDA, Congress should formulate measures to curb such unscrupulous practices by business entities, and consider raising punitive provisions for violating relevant laws that endanger the health and well being of the country's youth;

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 reported fake vitamins sold to the parents of schoolchildren in Cagayan by salespersons claiming to have approval from the Food and Drug Administration and endorsement from the Department of Education.

Adopted,

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Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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