
Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY
IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE DANGER AND RISK INVOLVED IN THE
EXCESSIVE AMOUNTS OF SODIUM CYCLAMATE, CYCLAMIC ACID OR
CALCIUM CYCLAMATE COMMONLY KNOWN AS "MAGIC SUGAR" AS FOOD
ADDITIVE

WHEREAS, the Food and Drug Administration ("FDA") in the Philippines recently revoked BFAD Advisory No. 2000-05 which prohibited the importation, distribution and sale of Magic Sugar, through FDA Advisory No. 2013-009, thus in effect said FDA Advisory allowed the importation and distribution and sale of Magic Sugar in the country;

WHEREAS, the said lifting of the ban of Magic Sugar was pursuant to the Codex Standard 192-1995 on Additives Permitted for Use Under Specified Conditions in Certain Food Categories or Individual Food Items and other provisions of CODEX General Standard of Food Additives;

WHEREAS, Saturnina Pandosen FDA-Cordillera Administrative Region, Supervisor and Regulatory Officer, emphasized that Magic Sugar is merely a food additive and not an alternative for sugar¹;

WHEREAS, in Taiwan, nearly 30 percent² of dried fruit and pickled vegetables on the market do not meet food safety standards, as they contain excessive levels of additives and most of the samples taken and examined resulted in 17 of the 51 samples -- or 33 percent -- did not meet food safety standards, as most of them contained excessive amounts of artificial sweetener or cyclamate, according to Chiang Yu-mei, Director of the Taipei City Government Department of Health Food and Drug Division;

WHEREAS, the above-mentioned FDA Advisory can be easily misunderstood by the general consumer as a direct alternative for sugar;

WHEREAS, the importers, distributors as well as sellers of Magic Sugar are the only ones being regulated by FDA Philippines. The aftermarket consumers or the middlemen who utilizes the Magic Sugar such as but not limited to street vendors and the like may not be properly informed or educated of the deadly and harmful effects of the use and or consumption of Magic Sugar;

¹ <http://www.sunstar.com.ph/baguio/local-news/2013/04/24/magic-sugar-fails-charm-fda-car-279126>

² <http://www.chinapost.com.tw/taiwan/national/national-news/2010/01/18/241326/Nearly-30.htm>


WHEREAS, the general consumers including women and children are the ones being affected if not directly affected by the importation, distribution and sale of Magic Sugar in the Philippines; and

WHEREAS, there is no law that covers or addresses permissible dosage or amount of Magic Sugar as food additive or how to properly utilize the same as an alternative to sugar if indeed permitted.

WHEREAS, notwithstanding, Codex Standard 192-1995 which FDA Philippines adheres to, there is a need of a law that would address such uncertainty as to the understanding of general consumers as well as addressing the coverage or lack thereof of the regulatory powers of FDA Philippines in order to prevent similar instances that happened in Taiwan involving their dried fruit and pickled vegetables in the Philippines.

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 danger and risk involved in the excessive amounts of sodium cyclamate, cyclamic acid or calcium cyclamate commonly known as Magic Sugar as food additive.

Adopted,


Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay
Senator