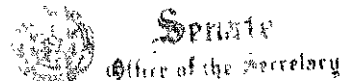


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )



13 NOV -7 P 4 :14

SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 343

RECEIVED BY: *ji*

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID  
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED FOOD AND DRUG ADVISORY ON GRATED  
COCONUT PRODUCTS CONTAMINATED WITH SALMONELLA

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 14 of the Constitution provides that the "State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them";

WHEREAS, Section 16 of the same states, "The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature";

WHEREAS, various news agencies have reported that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued an advisory on October 2013 warning the public against buying the Diwa brand of grated coconut, which it said may be contaminated with salmonella, a bacteria linked to food poisoning;

WHEREAS, an initial investigation by the FDA found that the product was not registered with their agency;

WHEREAS, The FDA said it learned only this week that the product was the subject of a health hazard alert by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency;

WHEREAS, Canada's alert dated 12 August 2013 reportedly said that the importer, Diwa Products Ltd., Toronto, was voluntarily recalling the affected product from the market;

WHEREAS, the report claimed that the FDA is requesting all food manufacturers and processors to register their respective products before exporting these to other countries;

WHEREAS, food safety is a global concern and processed food products that are contaminated with physical, chemical and biological hazards should not be offered for sale or for consumption;

WHEREAS, it is therefore imperative for the State to create stricter guidelines and harsher penalties for those who violate food regulatory measures;

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 food and drug advisory on grated coconut products contaminated with salmonella.

Adopted,

*Miriam Defensor Santiago*  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
*dsr*

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