

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
P.S.R No. 390

RECEIVED BY: *ju*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE PROPER COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT FROM THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION THAT CERTAIN FOOD PRODUCTS CONTAINING CANCER-CAUSING DYES ARE BEING SOLD IN THE LOCAL MARKET

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 11, Section 14 provides that "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them";

WHEREAS, an article posted in the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* website on 25 October 2013 reported that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) warned the public about processed food products found positive for rhodamine-B, a cancer-causing substance found in coloring dye;

WHEREAS, rhodamine-B is a fluorescent dye known to be carcinogenic for mammals;

WHEREAS, in an advisory posted on its website on October 2013, the FDA reportedly said three of 34 food product samples it tested for nonpermissible colorants (NPC) were found positive for rhodamine-B;

WHEREAS, according to the FDA, the samples it tested were reportedly taken from ambulant vendors, public markets, groceries, and supermarkets in the National Capital Region and Central Visayas;

WHEREAS, the FDA reportedly said that most of the samples were unregistered and noncompliant with food product labeling standards;

WHEREAS, five other food products that the FDA tested reportedly needed further confirmatory tests for the presence of NPC Sudan, which is an industrial grade dye not permitted for use in food because it is toxic, carcinogenic, and likely contains metals like mercury and arsenic, and is usually used in shoe and floor polish, solvents, oils, waxes and petrol;

WHEREAS, the FDA reportedly advised consumers to buy processed food products from legitimate food establishments and outlets, and urged consumers to report food processors using suspect food coloring additives;

WHEREAS, while it is clear that the FDA is committed to its mandate of protecting the health of Filipino consumers, Congress should augment its efforts in preventing food companies

from adding cancer-causing dyes and keeping food products with these toxic dyes from being sold in the local market, either through prohibition, regulation, or recommending alternatives or replacement for them;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate to direct the Senate Proper Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the report from the Food and Drug Administration that certain food products containing cancer-causing dyes are being sold in the local market.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
SEN. MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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