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Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

RESOLUTION

**DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PREVALENCE OF FAKE CONDIMENTS MADE WITH SYNTHETIC ACETIC ACID IN THE PHILIPPINE MARKET, IN LIGHT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DOST) REPORT THAT EIGHT OUT OF TEN LOCAL VINEGAR BRANDS ARE MADE WITH SYNTHETIC ACETIC ACID, WITH THE INTENTION OF PROTECTING CONSUMER HEALTHCARE AGAINST FAKE CONDIMENTS BEING SOLD, ADVERTISED, AND PROMOTED IN THE COUNTRY**

**WHEREAS**, researchers from the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (DOST-PNRI) used isotope-based analytical techniques to determine that from more than 360 brands of vinegar in the Philippines, 8 out of 10 are made from synthetic acetic acid<sup>1</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, according to Raymond Sugang, Section Head, Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (PNRI) Nuclear Analytical Techniques Applications Section, condiments usually undergo the process of fermentation, and the raw materials must come from fruits and other natural products<sup>2</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, the natural vinegar coming from plants will have traces of carbon with natural radioactivity, unlike those made from synthetic raw materials<sup>3</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, the PNRI team's research project distinguishes vinegar and other condiments made from natural or plant-based sources from those that are derived from petroleum-based sources<sup>4</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, synthetic acetic acid is a banned substance in the Philippines<sup>5</sup>;

<sup>1</sup> Manila Bulletin News Website, 8 of 10 local vinegar brands made from synthetic acetic acid – DOST, <https://news.mb.com.ph/2019/05/08/8-of-10-local-vinegar-brands-made-from-synthetic-acetic-acid-dost/>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Philippine Star News Website, DOST: 8 of 10 vinegar products fake, <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2019/05/10/1916659/dost-8-10-vinegar-products-fake>

<sup>5</sup> ABS-CBN News Website, DOH tests 300 vinegar brands for synthetic acetic acid, <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/05/25/19/doh-tests-300-vinegar-brands-for-synthetic-acetic-acid>

**WHEREAS**, the DOST-PNRI also said that brands of soy sauce, fish sauce and ketchup would also be tested<sup>6</sup>;

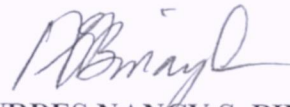
**WHEREAS**, according to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) advisory dated June 4, 2019, any artificial matter such as synthetic acetic acid or any cloudifying agent deems the vinegar adulterated hence, it must not be sold to the public<sup>7</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, the widespread presence fake condiments in the Philippine market pose risks to public health;

**WHEREAS**, Congress, through relevant legislation, and concerned agencies should guarantee the safety of food products in the Philippines through stricter monitoring, before they are allowed to be sold in the market in a bid to protect public health;

**BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** to direct the proper Senate committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the prevalence of fake condiments made with synthetic acetic acid in the Philippine market, in light of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) report that eight out of ten local vinegar brands are made from synthetic acetic acid, with the intention of protecting consumer healthcare against fake condiments being sold, advertised and promoted in the country.

Adopted,



**MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY**  
Senator

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<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> ABS-CBN News Website, FDA: 5 vinegar variants 'found to contain synthetic acetic acid, <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/06/04/19/fda-5-vinegar-variants-found-to-contain-synthetic-acetic-acid>