

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
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SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

PS Res. No. 694

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

URGENT

RESOLUTION TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION TO IDENTIFY, AND CONSEQUENTLY CAUSE THE PROSECUTION AND REMOVAL OF CULPABLE CUSTOMS BUREAU OFFICIALS IN THE APPARENT SMUGGLING OF MELAMINE-LACED MILK AND OTHER FOOD PRODUCTS

WHEREAS, the Department of Health has publicly aired suspicion that contaminated China-made milk products, particularly Greenfood Yili Fresh Milk and Mengniu Original Drink Milk, were illegally smuggled into the Philippines, because they do not have English labels;

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Foods and Drugs (BFAD) records reportedly show there is no registered infant formula produced in China that is being imported into the country;

WHEREAS, prevention of smuggling by the Bureau of Customs is the principal function of the Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Enforcement, including the Customs Intelligence and Investigation Services, and the National Customs Police;

WHEREAS, the alleged smuggling of melamine-positive Chinese milk products is conceivably part of the alleged smuggling network in the Bureau of Customs, where container vans are allowed into the country for a certain bribe per van, allegedly ranging from ₱10,000 to ₱20,000 per van, with the bribe money subsequently divided among top Customs officials;

WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Philippine Senate to direct the Blue Ribbon Committee to conduct an immediate inquiry in aid of legislation, in order to identify, and subsequently cause the prosecution and immediate removal of culpable officials in the Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Enforcement, the Customs Intelligence and Investigation Services, and the National Customs Police, among others, who have obviously failed to stop smuggling of melamine-positive milk products, and instead may have profited illegally from it.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO