

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
NATIONAL NUTRITION COUNCIL VII

RNC Resolution No. 17-03 (s 2017)

Excerpts from the Minutes of the Regional Nutrition Committee Meeting held on 21 February 2017 at the Club Ultima, Osmeña Blvd., Cebu City

“ENDORISING THE REGIONAL FOOD SAFETY COMMITTEE TO THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL”

WHEREAS, Section 15, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution declares that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. Furthermore, Section 9, Article XVI provides that the State shall protect consumers from trade malpractices and from substandard or hazardous products. Toward these ends, the State shall maintain a farm to fork food safety regulatory system that ensures a high level of food safety promotes fair trade and advances the global competitiveness of Philippine foods and food products;

WHEREAS, to strengthen the food safety regulatory system in the country, the State adopts the following objectives: (a) Protect the public from food-borne and water-borne illnesses and unsanitary, unwholesome, misbranded or adulterated foods; (b) Enhance industry and consumer confidence in the food regulatory system; and (c) Achieve economic growth and development by promoting fair trade practices and sound regulatory foundation for domestic and international trade.

WHEREAS, RA 10611, otherwise known as The Food Safety Act of 2013 was passed and approved in order to strengthen the food safety regulatory system in the country, by implementing the following measures, to wit: (1) Delineate and link the mandates and responsibilities of the government agencies involved; (2) Provide a mechanism for coordination and accountability in the implementation of regulatory functions; (3) Establish policies and programs for addressing food safety hazards and developing appropriate standards and control measures; (4) Strengthen the scientific basis of the regulatory system; and (5) Upgrade the capability of farmers, fisherfolks, industries, consumers and government personnel in ensuring food safety;

WHEREAS, foodborne diseases are illnesses resulting from the ingestion of food stuff contaminated with microorganisms or chemicals. Contamination may occur in the different stages of food handling; from food production to consumption (WHO);

WHEREAS, in 2016, a total of 5,929 cases, 41 deaths (CFR of 0.7%) were reported from different disease reporting units for Acute Bloody Diarrhea from the period of January 1 to December 31. This is 66% higher compared to the same period from the year 2015 with 3,570 cases, 11 deaths (CFR of 0.3%). Most (35.8%) of those affected were under the 1-10 years age group. Moreover, there were a total of 1,206 cases, 8 deaths (CFR of 0.7%) reported for Typhoid Fever in 2016. This is 24% lower compared to 2015 with 1,596 cases, 6 deaths (CFR of 0.4%). Most of those affected where 21 and above year age group.

WHEREAS, the Regional Nutrition Committee recognizes the public health concerns posted by continued practice of unsanitary food handling and production and the need to safeguard the public against food borne diseases;

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WHEREAS, to safeguard the public, the Department of Health, Region VII has initiated the organization of a multi-sectoral Food Safety Committee to perform the following functions:

- a. Shall oversee the enforcement of food safety and sanitary rules and regulations by the concerned government agencies and Local Government Units within its territorial jurisdiction;
- b. Shall be responsible for advocating food safety awareness, information and education to the public;
- c. Shall be responsible for capacitating LGUs through provision of technical assistance and shall periodically assess the effectiveness of the training programs;
- d. Shall assist the LGUs in establishing a mechanism for the issuance and enforcement of ordinances and regulations for food safety based on national standards within their territorial jurisdiction;
- e. Shall propose food safety and sanitary policies and procedures to Food Safety Regulatory Coordinating Board; and
- f. Shall perform agencies' roles and responsibilities stipulated in the signed Memorandum of Agreement (See attachment for Food Safety Committee MOA).

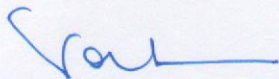
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to endorse the Regional Food Safety Committee to the Regional Development Council;

RESOLVED FURTHER, to request the support of the Regional Development Council, Regional Nutrition Council and member agencies in the implementation of the activities initiated by the Regional Food Safety Committee;

RESOLVED FINALLY, to seek assistance of the Regional Development Council in ensuring Local Government Units' compliance to the PD 856 otherwise known as the Sanitation Code of the Philippines, R.A. 10611 (Food Safety Act of 2013), food safety standards and food safety regulations where food is produced, processed, prepared and/or sold in their territorial jurisdiction

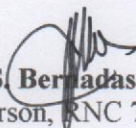
APPROVED, this 21st day of February 2017 during its 1st RNC Full Committee Meeting Series 2017 held at Club Ultima Board Room, Osmeña Blvd., Cebu City.

Certified Correct:



Parolita A. Mission, DPA, RN
RNC 7 Secretary

Attested by:



Jaime S. Bernadas, MD, MGM, CESO III
Chairperson, RNC 7