

Republic of the Philippines  
City of Davao  
**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**RESOLUTION NO.** \_\_\_\_\_  
Series of 2008

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE BUREAU OF FOOD AND DRUGS (BFAD), THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH) AND THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY (DTI) TO LOOK INTO THE PROLIFERATION OF HERBAL DRUGS IN TERMS OF THEIR SAFETY, THERAPEUTIC CLAIMS AND NUTRITIONAL VALUES WITH THE END IN VIEW OF CONSUMER PROTECTION**

- WHEREAS,** an article of Mr. Neal Cruz of the Philippine Inquirer (Nov. 10, 2008 issue) about promotions and advertisements on herbal drugs passed on as “food supplements” which have been inundating the market caught the attention of several consumer groups in the city;
- WHEREAS,** with the Cheaper Medicine Act in effect giving millions of Filipinos relief from high medicine prices, and the Bureau of Foods and Drugs (BFAD) finished with testing Chinese products for traces of the chemical melamine, it is high time that the BFAD and the Department of Health turn their attention to proliferation of herbal drugs being passed off as “food supplements;”
- WHEREAS,** are these claims of herbal drugs’ manufacturers true? Are these herbals good or bad for the health of humans? On closer examination, no scientific studies, either by BFAD or the manufacturer, have been published to guide or properly inform the public;
- WHEREAS,** the BFAD claims these herbals are not under their jurisdiction because they are not medicine but “food supplement,” yet the label “No therapeutic claims” is predominantly printed on the box of these herbal drugs;
- WHEREAS,** manufacturers are claiming in their ads that these herbals passed off as “food supplement” have many cures and good effects on health – on commercial shows an old man who cannot walk and crying in pain because of arthritis; after taking the herbal supplement, he is shown jogging happily; another commercial shows a woman who narrates her travail with an unusual growth in her breast but has to disobey her doctor’s orders for immediate surgery because after taking a herbal pill for a week, the growth disappeared – are not these therapeutic claims?
- WHEREAS,** many of these herbals drugs are sold like medicine over the counter, in capsule, pill, tablet or liquid form;
- WHEREAS,** ironically, it was the Department of Health (DOH) that encouraged the use of herbals through a former secretary of health who realized that the cost of medicines was beyond the reach of many poor patients and this started the boom in the herbal industry;
- WHEREAS,** the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) should have studied these herbals first before they are sold to protect the public, not only from false claims but also from the possible harmful effects of these products;

**WHEREAS,** it is no ethically right to allow businessmen to make claims about their products which are not true because this is downright deceiving the public and the public should be protected from them;

**WHEREAS,** what about those who endorse these herbal drugs – like well known doctors and celebrities? Should they be made responsible, when somebody dies after taking these herbals drugs they endorsed?

**WHEREAS,** national law makers should consider crafting a law that would make it a crime to make false claims about medicines or herbals supplement;

**WHEREAS,** in a country like the Philippines where herbs are used traditionally in rural areas to cure many ailments, and where businessmen have taken advantage to manufacture these herbs and market them as food supplement, it is high time that the BFAD and the DOH should be reminded that they are the vanguards of the people's health;

**WHEREAS,** the Department of Trade and Industry should also be requested to look these concerns because it has to do with consumer protection;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED,** that this Body request the Bureau of Food and Drugs, the Department of Health and the Department of Trade and Industry to look into these herbal drugs in terms of their safety, therapeutic claims, and nutritional values;

**FURTHER RESOLVED,** that copies of this resolution be furnished the Speaker of the House of Representatives for his legislative considerations and the Bureau of Food and Drugs, the Department of Health and the Department of Trade and Industry for their information.

**PILAR C. BRAGA, PhD**  
City Councilor

November 11, 2008 Regular Session (Suspended Rules)