



Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL
 Old Capitol Building, Bacolod City
 Tel. No. 707-8075 (Admin) * 435-7698 (Board Member) * 709-0121 (Legislative Division)
OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN OF THE PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL HELD IN THE CITY OF BACOLOD ON THE 27TH DAY OF JANUARY 2026

PRESENT:

Hon. Genaro G. Alvarez, IV	Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Hon. Laurence Marxlen J. de la Cruz	Member - 1 st District
Hon. Araceli T. Somosa	Member - 1 st District
Hon. Sixto Teofilo Roxas V. Guanzon, Jr.	Member - 2 nd District
Hon. Atty. Hope Marey B. Depasucat	Member - 3 rd District
Hon. Andrew Gerard L. Montelibano	Member - 3 rd District
Hon. Nicholas M. Yulo	Member - 4 th District
Hon. Patricia Paula M. Alonso-Valderrama	Member - 4 th District
Hon. Rita Angela S. Gatuslao	Member - 5 th District
Hon. Hadji P. Trojillo	Member - 5 th District
Hon. Jeffrey T. Tubola	Member - 6 th District
Hon. Mayvelyn L. Madrid	Member - SKF Rep.
Hon. Richard Julius L. Sablan	Member - ABC Rep.

ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS:

Hon. Jose Benito A. Alonso	Vice-Governor
Hon. Arthur Christopher D. Marañon	Member - 2 nd District

ABSENT:

Hon. Julius Martin D. Asistio (On-Leave)	Member - PCL Rep
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RESOLUTION NO. 0168
Series of 2026

RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH) AND THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA) TO STRENGTHEN THE REGULATION, LABELING, AND OVERSIGHT OF ARTIFICIAL SWEETENERS, AND CALLING ATTENTION TO THE ADVERSE PUBLIC HEALTH AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF UNREGULATED SWEETENER IMPORTATION ON THE LOCAL SUGAR INDUSTRY

WHEREAS, the sugar industry is a vital pillar of the Philippine agricultural economy, sustaining hundreds of thousands of farmers, mill workers, transporters, and rural communities, particularly in sugar-producing provinces;

WHEREAS, the increasing importation and use of artificial and high-intensity sweeteners-including but not limited to sucralose, aspartame-K, saccharin and cyclamates- have significantly displaced demand for locally produced sugar in food, beverage, and industrial applications;

WHEREAS, the absence of comprehensive regulation and monitoring of artificial sweetener and sugar import volumes by the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) has resulted in market distortion, undermining fair competition and contributing to depressed sugar prices and income instability in the domestic sugar sector;

WHEREAS, while certain artificial sweeteners are permitted for use within established acceptable daily intake (ADI) limits, growing scientific evidence associates excessive and long-term consumption with potential adverse health effects, including:

[Handwritten signatures and initials]



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- disruption of glucose metabolism and insulin response;
- alterations in gut microbiota;
- increased cardiometabolic risk;
- appetite dysregulation and weight gain; and
- heightened vulnerability among children, pregnant women, and individuals with pre-existing metabolic conditions;

WHEREAS, current product labelling practices often fail to clearly disclose the type, quantity, and cumulative exposure risks of artificial sweeteners, limiting consumers' ability to make informed dietary choices;

WHEREAS, inadequate public education on artificial sweeteners creates a false perception that such products are universally "healthier" alternatives to sugar, despite evidence that moderation and transparency are essential to consumer safety;

WHEREAS, effective regulation requires coordinated oversight among the Department of Health (DOH), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Department of Agriculture (DA), and the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) to address both public health protection and agricultural sustainability;

NOW THEREFORE, on motion of Hon. Rita Angela S. Gatuslao, unanimously seconded by all the members present,

THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN RESOLVED, as it hereby resolves, that:

1. The Department of Health (DOH) is earnestly urged to:
 - Conduct and publish regular, evidence-based health risk assessments on artificial sweeteners, particularly their long-term and cumulative effects;
 - Issue updated dietary guidance on artificial sweetener consumption, with special consideration for children and vulnerable populations;
 - Lead nationwide public information campaigns on the responsible and moderate use of sweeteners.
2. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is strongly urged to:
 - Strengthen regulations on the approval, monitoring, and post-market surveillance of artificial sweeteners;
 - Mandates clear, prominent, and standardized labeling, including:
 - * the specific type(s) of artificial sweetener used;
 - * quantitative content per serving;
 - * warnings for vulnerable groups; and
 - * reference to acceptable daily intake limits;
 - Enforce stricter compliance and penalties for mislabelling or non-disclosure.
3. The Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA), in coordination with the DA, DOH, and FDA, is urged to:
 - Establish a transparent system for monitoring and reporting artificial sweetener import volumes;
 - Assess the impact of sweetener imports on domestic sugar demand, pricing, and farmer livelihoods;



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-Recommend appropriate policy interventions to prevent market displacement and unfair competition against locally produced sugar.

4. The National Government is called upon to: -

-Review existing trade and import policies on artificial sweeteners to ensure they are aligned with public health objectives and agricultural sustainability; -

-Consider safeguard measures or regulatory mechanisms that prevent excessive or unregulated importation that harms the domestic sugar industry.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that this Resolution affirms the commitment to balanced, evidence-based policy making that protects public health, ensures informed consumer choice, promotes regulatory accountability, and safeguards the long-term viability of the Philippine sugar industry and the communities that depend on it.

ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon approval.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

HON. GENARO G. ALVAREZ, IV
Presiding Officer Pro Tempore

ATTESTED:

ATTY. MAKI ANGEL O. ASCALON
Provincial Secretary