Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

PRESS STATEMENT

17 September 2020

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) requires two (2) types of authorizations before any processed food product can be released in the Philippine market. The first is the License-to-Operate (LTO) which is an authorization granted to manufacturers, repackers, importers, distributors, wholesalers, traders who passed FDA guidelines such as Good Manufacturing Practices. After being issued an LTO, the food business operator is required to secure another authorization which is called Certificate of Product Registration (CPR). The evaluation process for CPR entails checking of the safety and quality of a respective product with applicable standards and issuances.

These have been the basic requirements of FDA since 2009 with the passage of Republic Act No. 9711 or the *FDA Act of 2009.* On 28 December 2009, a joint issuance was issued by the Department of Agriculture (DA) and Department of Health (DOH) in transferring the mandate of regulation from DOH-FDA to DA-National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS) of processed meat products. The mandate only returned to the DOH-FDA with the signing of Republic Act No. 10611 or the *Food Safety Act of 2013*. The transfer was fully implemented on 01 May 2017, and FDA started requiring a valid CPR prior to the distribution of all processed meat, including liver spread products such as RENO Brand.

RENO Foods, Incorporated, the manufacturer of RENO brand Liver spread has an existing LTO as food repacker. In 2017, the company applied for the variation of their LTO to include their product line as manufacturer of processed meat products. Upon inspection of the FDA, the company was granted approval of the LTO as manufacturer. However, FDA inspectors instructed the company to secure CPRs for their products, including RENO Brand Liver Spread.

This year, FDA inspectors collected samples of RENO Brand Liver Spread for verification of their CPR. Upon extensive search of FDA databases, the mentioned liver spread failed to secure a CPR. Thus, the FDA has a responsibility to inform the public, through an advisory, that RENO Brand Liver Spread is NOT REGISTERED as of this date as a processed food product and must secure the required authorization from this Office.

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Director General