

Headline	CASE VS DENG VAXIA MAKER, DISTRIBUTOR UPHELD	
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CASE VS DENG VAXIA MAKER, DISTRIBUTOR UPHELD

ATTEMPTS by the maker and distributor of the controversial Dengvaxia vaccine were nothing to a Quezon City trial court judge who recently junked their bid to dismiss the civil case lodged against them.

Instead, Judge Manuel Sta. Cruz Jr., of QC Regional Trial Court's Branch 226, backed the pursuit of a civil case filed against executives of French pharmaceutical Sanofi Pasteur Inc. and distributor Zuellig Pharma Corp. in connection with the death of a child after getting inoculated with the vaccine.

He said the complaint filed by the parents of the 13-year-old Abbie Hedia, who passed away on Feb. 10, 2018, had sufficient basis to take actions.

"Hypothetically admitting the mentioned allegations together with other facts alleged in the complaint, the court may render a judgment upon the same," the court order read.

In November 2019, Sanofi Pasteur, Dengvaxia manufacturer, said the vaccine could trigger more severe symptoms for those who have not had dengue.

The complainants blamed Sanofi Pasteur for failure to inform the public of the risks of the Dengvaxia either through safety warnings, instructions or indication in the product label.

They said Zuellig company must be held liable for selling the vaccine for mass immunization of over 800,000 school children.

Navotas inaugurates Women and Children Protection Unit

To better serve Navoteño women and children who are victims of abuses, the city government formally opened its Women and Children Protection Unit (WCPU) at the Navotas City Hospital (NCH).

Outgoing Mayor and Congressman-elect John Rey Tiangco and outgoing Rep. and Mayor-elect Toby Tiangco, together with Department of Health-Regional Director Corazon Flores, led the blessing and inauguration of the facility.

"We pushed for the establishment of the Women and Children Protection Unit not just because we wanted to comply with the law but also to manifest our concern and active response to gender issues and special circumstances of our women and children," Mayor JRT said.

A WCPU in every public hospital is required by DOH. But according to the department's website, of the 721 public hospitals in the country, only 94 have WCPUs and Violence against Women and Children Desks.

“Having a healthy citizenry can contribute much to our city’s continued progress and development,” said Rep. Toby.

Additional ambulance, service vehicle

The Navotas Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office gained another ambulance and service vehicle to reinforce its capacity for quick emergency response and bolster the city’s disaster preparedness and resilience campaign.

Mayor JRT, together with Vice Mayor Clint Geronimo, Councilors Alfredo Vicencio, Neil Adrian Cruz, and SK Federation president Jodile Cañete, led the blessing and turnover of the motor vehicles to NDRRMO chief Vonne Villanueva.