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Solons: Bloomberg and FDA may have breached PH laws

LAWMAKERS said several laws may have been violated when the Philippines Food and Drug Administration solicited and received grant money from The Union, a foreign non-government organization funded by anti-tobacco advocacy Bloomberg Initiative.

House Deputy Speaker Rufus Rodriguez, Rep. Rodante Marcoleta, Rep. Jericho Nograles and Rep. Sharon Garin said among the laws that were possibly violated by the FDA were the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act of 1960, the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees, Tobacco Regulation Act of 2003, the Lobbying Act of 1957 and Batas the Foreign Agents Act.

"I believe that the committee report must look at the violations of RA 1827, RA 3019, RA 6713, RA 9211 and Batas Pambansa Bilang 39. We will take note of these possible violations because, as correctly pointed out, clarification and harmonization will help the FDA and other agencies to avoid this kind of misunderstanding," Nograles said in the final hearing conducted by the House Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability on the Bloomberg donation.

"It was so obvious that the donation was made to influence the FDA, that was tantamount to bribery. We could not be puppets of institutions that are not even Filipinos. This is not only a violation of the laws that we have, it is a violation of our Constitution," Garin said.