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FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

SENATE

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P. S. Res. No. 321

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

RESOLUTION

URGING THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON WAYS TO SUPPORT THE FARMING AND PRODUCTION OF BROWN RICE IN THE PHILIPPINES WITH THE END IN VIEW OF CURBING THE RICE PRODUCTION DEFICIT IN THE COUNTRY

Whereas, Section 1 paragraph 1 of Article XII of the 1987 Constitution states that:

"The goals of the national economy are a more equitable distribution of opportunities, income, and wealth; a sustained increase in the amount of goods and services produced by the nation for the benefit of the people; and an expanding productivity as the key to raising the quality of life for all, especially the underprivileged";

Whereas, Section 15 of Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides that:

"The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them";

Whereas, brown rice is unpolished whole grain rice that is produced by removing only the hull or husk leaving only the bran which gives brown color to the grain as opposed to white rice which would require the palay to undergo additional processes of polishing and whitening and in effect striping it of essential nutrients;

Whereas, the bran which provides the brown color of brown rice contains fiber and essential oils making it very filling and nutritious by preventing major ailments such as certain gastrointestinal and heart diseases;

Whereas, brown rice is not metabolized and digested quickly as white rice so a person does not get hungry easily, implying a lower per capita rice consumption and in effect reducing the national requirement for rice;

Whereas, brown rice contains nutrients like magnesium, manganese, zinc and in its natural state, is a better source of several nutrients such as riboflavin, folate and iron;

Whereas, The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition estimates that one cup of brown rice provides 88 % of the daily value for manganese, the trace mineral that helps produce energy from protein and carbohydrates;

Whereas, the Philippines is the biggest rice importer, buying as much as 2.47 million tons of the staple to fill its requirements for 2010¹;

Whereas, the International Rice Research Institute warned that government must work ahead of time to solve the 10% to 15% expected shortfall in rice supply next year in consideration of the 2% annual growth in the country's population;

Whereas, in milling palay to brown rice, there is a 10% additional yield compared to white rice which is equivalent to the Philippines' rice production deficit;

Whereas, because of low demand, brown rice is currently more expensive and not available in many markets;

Whereas, brown rice production reduces the power demands of milling by as much as 65% because the polishing and whitening steps are eliminated;

Whereas, when the polishing and whitening steps are eliminated, the milling time is also shortened, labor is less and the cost of equipment is much lower because the miller does not have to install polishers and whiteners;

Whereas, the State, in order to address the country's demand for rice and at the same time promote better health, should support the production and use of brown rice by utilizing the appropriate branches of government like the Department of Agriculture, Department of Science and Technology and other appropriate departments;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Committee on Agriculture and Food to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on ways to support the farming and production of brown rice in the Philippines with the end in view of curbing the rice production deficit in the country.

Adopted,

MANNY VILLAR Senator

¹ http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/business/09/17/10/after-glut-nfa-now-sees-rice-shortage-next-year