

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 382

RECEIVED BY: fr

Introduced by Senator Francis N. Pangilinan

***A RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD
TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION
ON THE DISENGAGEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL SERVICES OF
FOOD TERMINAL INCORPORATED (FTI)
AND ITS IMPACT ON THE EFFORTS OF THE GOVERNMENT
TO ACHIEVE FOOD SUFFICIENCY***

WHEREAS, Food Terminal Incorporated (FTI) was created under a Presidential directive issued in January 1967, which led to the creation of a committee to look into the upliftment of the agricultural economy in the Philippines. The committee proposed a system designed to ensure price stability of agricultural produce and increased productivity of farmers. On April 30, 1968, Greater Manila Terminal Food Market (GMTFM) was established through Presidential Decree No. 347;

WHEREAS, GMTFM engaged in activities such as storage, food processing, research and quality control, marketing services, and trading. It maintained storage facilities like the Central Refrigerated Warehouse (CRW) with chilling rooms, freezer storage, ice plant, blast freezers and refrigerated processing rooms. It constructed slaughterhouses, chicken dressing plants and a multi-purpose warehouse for dry storage, food-processing facilities for grading, handling and packaging for foreign market. GMTFM's main function was to promote economic benefit to farmers;

WHEREAS, FTI then became a major subsidiary of the National Food Authority (NFA) to further strengthen its position in the integrated growth and development of the food industry. It was primarily established to assist farmers and promote agricultural development;

WHEREAS, GMTFM was later on converted into an Agro-Industrial Commercial Estate and thus, from its services of direct trading of commodities, storage and food processing, it subsequently expanded its service capability to include retailing, transport servicing, and real estate leasing. On March 27, 1974, GMTFM adopted Food Terminal Incorporated as its new corporate name;

WHEREAS, food trading, food processing, including slaughtering operations of FTI were suspended in 1989 because of the conflict with free trade market forces. After operating continuously for 30 years, the cold storage of FTI also ceased operations in 2004 due to technical problems and viability concerns;

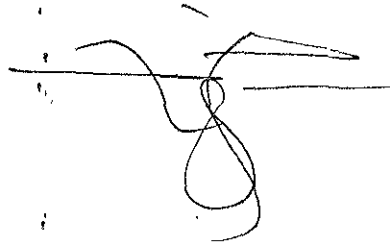
WHEREAS, FTI occupies one hundred twenty (120) hectares of agro-industrial commercial estate in Taguig City, originally built to be a food processing and consolidation center for agricultural products. Of the one hundred twenty (120) hectare property, the government is selling one hundred three (103) hectares, leaving seventeen (17) hectares to the NFA which it currently owns;

WHEREAS, based on news reports, the Department of Finance (DOF) is willing to enter into a negotiated bid with a local developer for the FTI property in Taguig, more so Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima said that government will welcome proposals from prospective investors who can introduce "new technology" into FTI;

WHEREAS, improvements in infrastructure and introduction of technologies are keys to increase productivity in agriculture, the establishment of FTI should benefit the sector to address the needs of the farmers who depend heavily on modern facilities that can preserve, process and store their agriculture produce to minimize wastage and losses. The disengagement of agricultural services of FTI has adversely affected the farmers and has posed a threat to food sufficiency;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Food to conduct an investigation in aid of legislation on the disengagement of agricultural services of Food Terminal Incorporated (FTI) and its impact on the efforts of the Government to achieve food sufficiency.

ADOPTED,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a horizontal line with a large, stylized loop underneath it.