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S E N A T E

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 INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

RESOLUTION

URGING CONCERNED STATE AGENCIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TO CONDUCT STRICTER CONTINGENCY MEASURES TO PROTECT LOCAL HOG FARMS FROM VIRUS-BORNE DISEASE OUTBREAKS WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENSURING THE SAFETY OF THE PEOPLE FROM CONSUMING SUSPECTED VIRUS-BORNE HOGS RESULTING FROM UNMONITORED DISTRIBUTION AND SALE OF LOCAL HOGS IN THE COUNTRY

Whereas, the Philippine Constitution safeguards the people against diseases and perilous health practices including the consumption of contaminated, disease-borne products, as provided by Article 11, Section 15, "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them;"

Whereas, the Central Luzon region alone, covering the provinces of Pampanga, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija and Tarlac produces five million hogs yearly;

Whereas, according to the Philippines Livestock and Products Annual 2006, Filipinos are relatively large consumers of pork and would generally prefer pork over chicken or beef;

Whereas, very recently, countries are alarmed of the widely- spreading virus associated to be incubated in hogs, that have killed 106 infected people in Mexico, where the virus was reported to have originated, according to the report by the World Health Organization (WHO) when it raised the alert of the virus a notch higher considering it as a pandemic outbreak;

Whereas, local commercial hog farms are just the same apprehensive of the condition of their pigs, congruently that at least 50 hogs were reported to have died in the month of April in Magsaysay, Davao del Sur;

Whereas, residents of the barangays in Magsaysay, Davao del Sur are alarmed by the death of the hogs in fear that it was caused by the threatening virus strain recognized globally as swine flu;

Whereas, however, the provincial agriculture officer of the province discovered through the laboratory tests conducted that the hog cholera were triggered by the erratic weather and poor sanitation in the hog farms and nullified the people's assumption that the condition suffered by the hogs is swine flu;

Whereas, in Lingayen, Pangasinan, some hogs are observed to be suffering from fever, lack of appetite and appearing to be sluggish, which also alarmed the residents of possible outbreak of the dreaded virus;

Whereas, local agriculture and health officials have implemented monitoring schemes to detect symptoms of swine flu in the pig farms through tests conducted from the blood and tissue samples from pigs in the towns of Lingayen, Aguilar and Bugallon;

Whereas, amidst the outbreak of the dreaded swine virus affecting 10 recognized countries by the WHO, it is imperative that the Filipinos take contingency measures despite advisories of the Department of Health (DoH) that the country is yet free from the swine virus contamination;

Whereas, Dr. Romeo Manalili, regional quarantine officer of the Department of Agriculture (DA) called the attention of local government unit heads to implement precautionary measures to protect the country from virus outbreaks;

Whereas, Filipinos should be more cautious with the pork they eat especially with its sanitation, at the same time evoke hog farm owners and caretakers to secure proper sanitation and health care to the pigs and immediately report and isolate suspected virus-stricken hogs;

Whereas, the government is therefore urged to strengthen the field monitoring of hog farms, encourage vaccination of hogs for disease prevention and monitor the circulation, sale and distribution of hogs all over the country; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge concerned State Agencies and local government units to conduct stricter contingency measures to protect local hog farms from virus-borne disease outbreaks with the end in view of ensuring the safety of the people from consuming suspected virus-borne hogs resulting from unmonitored distribution and sale of local hogs in the country.

Adopted,


MANNY VILLAR
Senator