

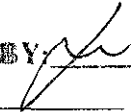
FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



Senate
Office of the Secretary

'11 MAR 17 P2:20

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 433

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON REVITALIZING THE LOCAL ONION INDUSTRY AND
INVESTIGATING THE REPORTED LARGE-SCALE SMUGGLING OF IMPORTED
ONIONS IN THE COUNTRY

WHEREAS, according to various news reports last January, the Department of Agriculture (DA) issued a temporary ban on the importation of onions in the country, citing the complaints of local onion farmers that they cannot compete with cheaper prices of smuggled imported onions;

WHEREAS, reports said that the local onion industry had been reeling from the influx of illegal onions for the past ten years;

WHEREAS, the DA reportedly said it will create a farmer-led anti-smuggling group to confiscate imported onions from the market in response to the reported large-scale smuggling of imported onions;

WHEREAS, reports said that illegal onions usually come from India and China, while red onions are also imported in from Taiwan, and white onions from New Zealand;

WHEREAS, onion farmers asked the DA through the Bureau of Plant Industry to limit the issuance of permits to import onions;

WHEREAS, the DA, together with local onion farmers, is already formulating strategies to revitalize the local onion industry and produce enough onions during the off-season in various provinces, particularly in Nueva Ecija, Occidental Mindoro, Isabela, and General Santos City;

WHEREAS, the DA has an allotment of P25 million in its budget to fund programs on certain plant spices including onions;

WHEREAS, legislation should find ways to strengthen the local onion industry both by protecting it from external threats such as competition with smuggled imported onions, and by improving the lot of local onion farmers in hopes of producing higher yield and better quality of local varieties for exportation;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on revitalizing the local onion industry and investigating the reported large-scale smuggling of imported onions in the country.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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