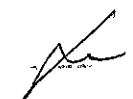


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS )  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Third Regular Session )

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SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 1313

RECEIVED BY 

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INTRODUCED BY THE HONORABLE SENATOR MAR ROXAS

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A RESOLUTION

REQUIRING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND COMMERCE AND THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS TO JOINTLY CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO REPORTS OF RAMPANT ONION SMUGGLING IN THE COUNTRY, WITH THE END VIEW OF PROPOSING MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN TRADE LAWS AND AGREEMENTS, PROTECT CONSUMERS, AND STABILIZE THE PRICE OF ONIONS AND OTHER COMMODITIES IN THE LOCAL MARKET.

WHEREAS, Section 19, Article II of the 1987 Constitution declares the policy of the State to develop a self-reliant and independent national economy effectively controlled by Filipinos;

WHEREAS, Section 1, Paragraph 2, Article XII of the 1987 Constitution requires the State to protect Filipino enterprises against unfair foreign competition and trade practices;

WHEREAS, the onion industry is recognized as an economic growth potential for the country with an annual gross production, according to data provided by the Katipunan ng mga Samahang Magsisibuyas ng Nueva Ecija (KASAMNE), pegged at an average of 100,000 metric tons valued at Php 5-Billion Pesos;

WHEREAS, recent reports from farmers groups and media speak of rampant onion smuggling into the country, flooding the market with imported onions from China and India despite the lack of import permits from the Bureau of Plant Industry, destabilizing the price of onions to the detriment of local producers, and keeping local harvests stuck in cold storage plants;

WHEREAS, this illicit trade, if left unchecked and unabated, would result in the displacement and marginalization of 500,000 stakeholders in the industry, including 125,000 onion farmers, farm workers and their families;

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED*, to require the Senate Committee on Trade and Commerce and the Senate Committee on Ways and Means to jointly conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into reports of rampant onion smuggling in the country, with the end view of proposing measures to strengthen trade laws and agreements, protect consumers, and stabilize the price of onions and other commodities in the local market.

Adopted,

  
MAR ROXAS  
Senator