

NOV 22 P2:32

SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 648

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Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, *IN AID OF LEGISLATION*, INTO THE POLICIES AND PROGRAMS BEING IMPLEMENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF OUR LOCAL RUMINANT STOCK IN ORDER TO PROMOTE FOOD SECURITY IN THE COUNTRY

WHEREAS, Section 5 Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution provides that the State shall recognize the right of farmers, as well as cooperatives, and other independent farmers' organizations to participate in the planning, organization, and management of the program, and shall provide support to agriculture through appropriate technology and research, and adequate financial, production, marketing, and other support services;

WHEREAS, goat breeding is fast becoming a major agricultural activity in the country to address food security problems, particularly in the rural areas. These animals survive in almost any kind of environment that is dry and where feed resources are available, making their potential as one of the main sources of farm income in the country;

WHEREAS, the goat is popularly known as the poor man's cow because children and old folks who cannot afford cow's milk prefer drinking goat's milk. Aside from being cheap, goat's milk is more digestible compared to cow's milk;

WHEREAS, goat raising in the Philippines is undertaken mostly by small farmers or backyard raisers of which an average of about one or two heads are raised by every farmer, of which 99.07 percent of the country's goat inventory is found in backyard farms and only a handful of commercial-scale goat farms can be found in the country;

WHEREAS, in a study conducted by the Department of Agriculture (DA), data indicate that goats are multi-purpose ruminants producing 58.4% milk, 35.6% meat, 4.3% hide, and 1.7% fiber. According to the DA, these small ruminants provide a huge potential in addressing the nutritional requirements of the predominantly rural farm families scattered all over the archipelago;

WHEREAS, the local goat industry in the country can be further improved through government support and incentives, primarily through the provision of good quality breeder stock, among other forms of assistance. Moreover, raising the hybrid goat stock in the country will contribute to the efficient production of goat based products in the country;

WHEREAS, there is a need on the part of the Department of Agriculture to study the viability of importing goat breeders from countries that produce quality goat stock in

order to enhance the production of hybrid goat species in the country and infuse the local ruminants stock with desirable characteristics that would improve the quality of our local ruminants;

WHEREAS, there is likewise a need for the DA to develop a program that will outline the breeding requirements of our local goat stock in terms of number and characteristics and create the regulatory framework for the importation and distribution of goat breeder stock to the various provinces in the country;

WHEREAS, there is also a need for the DA to make technical studies on the use of other parts of the goat other than goat meat and goat milk and include non-food by-products such as yarn, goat-milk, and goat skin for use in handicrafts and various traditional household products.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED

to direct the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Food to conduct and inquiry, *In Aid of Legislation*, into the policies and programs being implemented by the Department of Agriculture to improve the quality of our local ruminant stock in order to promote food security in the country.

ADOPTED,


MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator