

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



Senate
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SENATE
P.S. Res. No. **233**

RECEIVED BY: *[Signature]*

Introduced by Senator **LOREN LEGARDA**

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE CLAIMS OF CERTAIN GROUPS AND AGENCIES CONCERNING THE ACTUAL STATE OF RICE SUPPLY IN THE COUNTRY, INCLUDING THE ROLE AND POLICIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY GIVEN OUR GOAL OF NATIONAL RICE SUFFICIENCY

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the State to promote comprehensive rural development and agrarian reform;

WHEREAS, Article 13, Section 5 of the Constitution recognizes "the right of farmers, farmworkers, and landowners, 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, amid official statements made by the Department of Agriculture on rice production self-sufficiency, contrary indications appear to be prevalent in

almost all areas in the country and may even be ominous of an impending rice crisis as shown by constant price increases due to repeated supply shortages at the retail level along with evident queues in grain retail outlets;

WHEREAS, the price increment of the lowest commercial grade rice variety rose from Php 27 per kilo a few months ago to Php 34 per kilo recently, and the nearest next priced stocks of a more edible quality is now at Php 41 per kilo.

WHEREAS, as price is generally driven by market forces, primarily by demand for a certain commodity, the foregoing movement of rice prices in the past few months can imply either an insufficient supply in the market or the presence of manipulative forces adversely affecting the price dynamics of the national staple;

WHEREAS, the National Food Authority, despite its legal mandate and resources, has failed to bring down and stabilize the price of rice to a level more palatable to the consuming public;

WHEREAS, the country's rice self-sufficiency targets are even more threatened by the ever increasing number and intensity of typhoons and other destructive weather systems;

WHEREAS, with the foregoing premises in consideration, it is highly important to review existing policies, programs and projects aimed at rice self-sufficiency and reexamine the national supply thresholds, standards, rules and regulations controlling the country's rice production and supply stabilization initiatives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Senate, to direct the proper Senate Committee, to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, to determine the actual state of the rice supply in the country and

the role and policies of the Department of Agriculture and National Food Authority relative to our goal of achieving rice sufficiency in the country.

Adopted,



LOREN LEGARDA
Senator