

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

'04 JUL -2 A9:16

RECEIVED BY \_\_\_\_\_

SENATE  
P.S. Res No. 13

---

Introduced by Senator Rodolfo G. Biazon

---

**RESOLUTION**  
**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN**  
**INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPACT OF THE**  
**IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR COUNTRY'S COMMITMENTS TO THE WORLD**  
**TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO) UNDER THE GATT-URUGUAY ROUND**  
**AGREEMENT**

*Whereas*, The Ratification by the Philippine Congress of our country's accession to the GATT-WTO Uruguay Round Agreement in 1994 marked our commitment to reduce distortions on three key areas that affect trade in agriculture, namely, market access, domestic support and export subsidies;

*Whereas*, Under this agreement, we committed to the outside world to the Prohibition on Additional Non-Tariff Measures, Tarification of Quantitative Restrictions, Minimum Access Volumes, Tariff Bindings, Tariff Reductions, Reduction of Production Subsidies, and Plant Variety Registration and Protection;

*Whereas*, Internally, our country committed to Competitiveness Enhancement and Safety Net Measures such as:

1. the reduction in import tariff rates on key production inputs to agriculture;
2. trade remedies such as safeguard against import surges, safeguards against injury to domestic industries and dumping duties;
3. reforms in the VAT for agro-processors;
4. budgetary support to agriculture in the amount of P72.9 billion for the period 1995 – 1998; and
5. support to irrigation in the amount of P28.4 billion for a 4-year period from 1995 – 1998.

*Whereas*, These measures were intended to minimize, if not neutralize, temporary dislocations in the sector and enhance the competitiveness of farmers so that they will be able to seize the opportunities that come with the opening of new and more stable markets for Philippine agricultural products;

*Whereas*, our entry in the WTO was expected to bring benefits to our country through greater market access and higher commodity prices for our products, more efficient resource allocation, benefits to consumers of processed food dependent on highly protected sectors, better government focus on meaningful support measures, and higher growth in production and employment;

*Whereas*, There is a need to examine the impact of the implementation of our country's external and internal commitments to ensure that the abovementioned benefits expected under this agreement are fully realized; *Now Therefore Be It Resolved, As It Is Hereby Resolved*,

*By The Senate*, To Direct The Appropriate Senate Committees To Conduct An Inquiry, In Aid Of Legislation, On The Implementation Of Our Country's Commitments To The World Trade Organization (WTO) Under The GATT-Uruguay Round Agreement.

Adopted,

  
**RODOLFO G. BIAZON**  
Senator