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SENATE

P. S. R. No. 238

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Introduced by SENATOR CYNTHIA A. VILLAR

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PRESENT POLICIES AND PRACTICES ON THE IMPORTATION OF GARLIC AND ONIONS VIS-À-VIS CLAIMS OF MONOPOLIZATION OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF ONIONS AND GARLIC.

WHEREAS, Article XII, Sec. of the Constitution states, "The goals of the national economy are a more equitable distribution of opportunities, income, and wealth; a sustained increase in the amount of goods and services produced by the nation for the benefit of the people; and an expanding productivity as the key to raising the quality of life for all, especially the underprivileged.";

WHEREAS, under Department of Agriculture Administrative Order No.18 series of 2000, an Import Permit (SPS Certificate) is required prior to the importation of agricultural products, live animals, plants, fishes, as well as their products and by-products;

WHEREAS, a case has been filed before the Regional Trial Court of Manila against the Department of Agriculture, the Bureau of Plant Industry, and the Plant Quarantine Services to compel the said agencies to issue importation permits;¹

WHEREAS, the lack of new import permits limits the number of onion and garlic distributors to a select group in the country allowing them to price the agricultural goods at a relatively high market price and earn large profits;

WHEREAS, the proliferation of imported garlic and onion in the market has adversely affected the local producers;

WHEREAS, it is the consuming public who will be greatly prejudiced by the increased prices in onion and garlic;

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Philippine Senate to direct the appropriate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the practice and policies of the Department of Agriculture in issuing permits for the importation of garlic and onions, and in order that appropriate policies be adopted to avoid prejudicing the consuming public.

Adopted,


CYNTHIA A. VILLAR

¹ I Erika Sauler. *Group Seeks permits to import onions, garlic.* Inquirer, April 11, 2013, business.inquirer.net/116359/group-seeks-permits-to-import-onions-garlic>