

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



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SENATE
P.S.R No. 602

RECEIVED BY: JIN

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE WORLD BANK REPORT THAT THE PHILIPPINES DID NOT MEET ITS RICE POLICY OBJECTIVE

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 12, Section 1 states: "The State shall promote industrialization and full employment based on sound agricultural development and agrarian reform, through industries that make full of efficient use of human and natural resources, and which are competitive in both domestic and foreign markets. However, the State shall protect Filipino enterprises against unfair foreign competition and trade practices";

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Star*, in an article dated 21 March 2014, reported that according to World Bank (WB) despite billions of pesos spent by the Philippine government to stabilize rice prices and supply, a lead economist of the World Bank said today that cheap rice remains inaccessible to the poor;

WHEREAS, World Bank lead economist Rogier Van Den Brink reportedly said that based on performance, the country's rice policy has not been "efficient"; only 11.5 percent of rice purchased by the poor come from the state-run National Food Authority (NFA), which has been mandated to sell cheap rice.

WHEREAS, Van Den Brink also reportedly said that rice stabilization comes at the cost of much higher prices and the widening gap between farm gate and retail prices suggest an inefficient marketing system;


WHEREAS, Van Den Brink also reportedly noted that a significant gap still remains between rice production and consumption and that the government's purchases of unmilled rice from farmers is too little to make a difference;

WHEREAS, according to the article, the NFA borrows from commercial banks to finance the government's rice importation and carry out its mandate of buying unmilled rice from farmers at a high price and selling it low to the public;

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the State to stabilize rice prices and supply considering that the staple food of most Filipinos is rice;

WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE, to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation on the World Bank report that the Philippines did not meet its rice policy objective.

Adopted,

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MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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