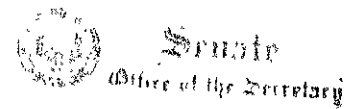


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



15 MAR 10 P3:59

SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 1225

APPROVED BY: *Jr*

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD, TRADE AND COMMERCE, AND OTHER APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE LOOMING ONION CRISIS IN THE COUNTRY

WHEREAS, Article 2, Section 9 of the 1987 Constitution provides that "The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all";

WHEREAS, the Article 12, Section 19 further affirms that "The State shall regulate or prohibit monopolies when the public interest so requires. No combinations in restraint of trade or unfair competition shall be allowed";

WHEREAS, the Samahang Industriya ng Agrikultura (SINAG) warned the public of an impending onion crisis as onion traders and importers allegedly over-stock imported onions, driving our local produce to sink at farm gate levels of Php10-12 per kilogram for white onions and Php7-9 per kilogram for red onions, which is below the farmers' cost of production;

WHEREAS, despite the very low onion prices offered by our farmers, supermarkets, markets and similar venues continue to sell onions at Php35-40 per kilogram of onions;

WHEREAS, in an interview, SINAG's leader said that onion traders are hesitant to buy from local farmers because warehouses of traders in Manila and nearby provinces are purportedly loaded with imported and smuggled onions;

WHEREAS, smugglers, apparently, use some ports in Mindanao to bring in onions thereby decreasing the market for onion traders from Luzon;

WHEREAS, in 2013, the government reported that imports reached 8.5 million kilogram, a figure that contradicts the United Nations trade report that marked Chinese onion exports to the Philippines at 11.5 million kilos;

WHEREAS, the European Union also reported exporting around 2.8 million kilograms of onions to the country in 2013 while some 629,000 kilograms was supposedly imported from India;

WHEREAS, reports reveal that people responsible for the garlic cartel are the same personalities behind this looming onion crisis, thus the need for a thorough investigation anent this matter to safeguard and protect the interest of our beleaguered local growers and farmers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, That the Philippine Senate directing the Senate Committees on Agriculture and Food, Trade and Commerce, and other appropriate Senate Committees to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the looming onion crisis.

Adopted,



MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID