

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



'15 MAR 19 P5 22

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1252

RECEIVED BY: J.

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

1 RESOLUTION
2 DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
3 IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT THAT THERE IS A LOOMING
4 CRISIS OF ONION SUPPLY IN CENTRAL LUZON

5 WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 12, Section 12 provides: "The State shall
6 promote the preferential use of Filipino labor, domestic materials and locally produced
7 goods, and adopt measures that help make them competitive";

8 WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* on 9 March 2015 reported that
9 according to Samahang Industriya ng Agrikultura (Sinag), there is a looming crisis in the
10 supply of onions in Central Luzon;

11 WHEREAS, unsold stocks are allegedly piled up even when the farmers have
12 dropped prices to entice buyers;

13 WHEREAS, the umbrella group of farmers, agribusiness operators, and party-list
14 groups reportedly blame the cartel of onion traders and importers;

15 WHEREAS, Sinag allegedly said that the cartel stockpiled foreign-sourced onions
16 so that the price of the local harvest would sink to ridiculously low levels, while
17 influencing buyers to stay away from the farms;

18 WHEREAS, Sinag chair Rosendo So reportedly added that traders have no
19 incentive to go out to the farms since warehouses in Metro Manila and nearby provinces
20 are allegedly full of imported and smuggled onions;

21 WHEREAS, local onion growers have reportedly pushed down farmgate prices to
22 ₱10 to ₱12 per kilo for white onions and ₱7 to ₱9 per kilo for red onions;

1 WHEREAS, according to the report, farmgate prices are normally set at ₱12 per
2 kilo for white onions and ₱15 for red onions;

3 WHEREAS, there is a need for Congress to amend existing laws or formulate
4 applicable laws to prevent and curtail the smuggling of agricultural products in our
5 country;

6 WHEREAS, it is also necessary to strengthen trade laws and agreements, protect
7 consumers, and stabilize the price of agricultural products in the local market;

8 WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE
9 to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the
10 reported looming crisis of onion supply in central Luzon.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
RP

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