

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1482

RECEIVED BY: *J*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,
ON THE REPORT THAT EL NIÑO IS NEGATIVELY AFFECTING RICE PRODUCTION

1 WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 5 provides: "The maintenance of peace
2 and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and promotion of the general welfare are
3 essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy";

4 WHEREAS, *Philippine Daily Inquirer* on 10 July 2015 reported that the Philippines is
5 suffering the worst from the effects of the El Niño dry spell and driving up demand for milled
6 rice imports;

7 WHEREAS, the *Inquirer* quoted the latest semestral Rice Market Monitor Report of the
8 Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) where the United Nations agency raised its forecast
9 on global rice trade for 2015 to 42 million tons, 700,000 tons more than its April forecast;

10 WHEREAS, the FAO allegedly said that among importers, the Philippines is suffering
11 most from the agricultural effects of the prevailing El Niño anomaly and should is among those
12 urged to heavily prepare for its likely persistence until early 2016;

13 WHEREAS, the report said that the National Food Authority has so far contracted
14 foreign suppliers for a total of 750,000 tons of milled rice for 2015;

15 WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture has also allegedly cited the impact of
16 prolonged dry spells, which cut plantings of the dry season crop by 2 percent to 2.1 million
17 hectares, as well as pest attacks, further compromising yields which might have pushed down the
18 output by 1.4 percent to 8.3 million tons;

1 WHEREAS, the FAO reportedly said that underlying the negative outlook is primarily
2 the El Niño phenomenon, which, while linked to a reduced incidence of storms, is commonly
3 associated in the Philippines with a poor rainfall performance;

4 WHEREAS, it further claimed that 80 percent of the Philippines has already been
5 affected by lower-than-average rainfall as of May, and that the El Niño was expected to cause
6 less rains in the fourth quarter;

7 WHEREAS, the FAO warned that if the expected effects of El Niño are felt, they could
8 hinder the availability of water for irrigation for the off-season harvest, adding to damages
9 already caused to early planted main crops;


10 WHEREAS, the report said that to address the situation, the Department of Agriculture
11 has been calling on farmers to plant early and to use seeds that are resistant to drought;

12 WHEREAS, it is imperative for the State to institute immediate measures to mitigate
13 harmful effects of El Niño to our rice production;

14 WHEREAS, Congress must strengthen existing legislation based on the country's El
15 Niño experience to prepare for its impact, especially on agriculture;

16 WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct
17 the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the report that rice
18 production is under pressure from El Niño.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAAGO
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