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SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 1567

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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RESOLUTION  
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE  
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,  
ON THE REPORT THAT SMUGGLED CARROTS CONTINUE TO ENTER THE  
PHILIPPINE MARKET

1 WHEREAS, the Constitution provides in Article 2, Section 15, and in Article 12, Section  
2 12:

3 Article 2. Section 15. The State shall protect and promote the right to  
4 health of the people and instill health consciousness among them;

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

8 WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* on 25 August 2015 reported that vegetable  
9 farmers from the provinces are complaining about unfair competition with the entry of cheaper  
10 carrots flown in from Taiwan, marked “product of China;”

11 WHEREAS, the *Inquirer* quoted the Benguet Farmers Multipurpose Cooperative  
12 (BFMC), which said that imported carrots were being sold in markets in Metro Manila at prices  
13 much cheaper than those produced in the provinces;

14 WHEREAS, the BFMC claimed that the shipments arrived even when restrictions in the  
15 import of vegetables including carrots, were still enforced pending the Association of Southeast  
16 Asian Nations (Asean) Free Trade Agreement and the Asean Economic Community Integration  
17 in December;

18 WHEREAS, the report also quoted the Samahang Industriya ng Agrikultura (Sinag),  
19 which said that the Philippines has so far imported 350,775 kilos of carrots from China, and  
20 9,600 kilos from the Netherlands, based on data from UN Commission on International Trade;

21 WHEREAS, the group charged that only 12,133 kilos of carrots were recorded by the  
22 Bureau of Customs to have entered the country, suggesting that at least 338,642 kilos were  
23 considered smuggled;

1           WHEREAS, the Bureau of Customs must thoroughly inspect shipments of agricultural  
2 products in order to protect local farmers from unfair competition;


3           WHEREAS, smuggled agricultural produce such as carrots might also compromise the  
4 health of Filipino consumers;

5           WHEREAS, importers of smuggled agricultural products are emboldened by the fact that  
6 they are able to evade prosecution for their infraction;

7           WHEREAS, Congress must fast-track reforms at the Bureau of Customs through relevant  
8 legislation;

9           WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct  
10 the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the report that  
11 smuggled carrots continue to enter the Philippine market.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
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