

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



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SENATE
P.S. Resolution No. 340

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

RESOLUTION
URGING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE STATUS OF THE
GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES AND PROGRAMS TO CONTAIN AND
ERADICATE THE CECID FLY INFESTATION OF THE MANGO INDUSTRY

WHEREAS, Article XII, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution states that, "The State shall promote industrialization and full employment based on sound agricultural development";

WHEREAS, the Philippines' fruit industry contributes to the economy largely owing to its rich assortment of tropical fruits of which more than twenty (20) different species are cultivated and where mango is not only one of the eight (8) leading species which are grown in the country but verily the symbol of the Philippines throughout the world;

WHEREAS, in 2019, the Philippines produced 737,928 tons of mango, continuing a trend of decreasing production from the 814,056 tons produced in 2016, due to abnormal weather patterns and insect pests;

WHEREAS, the Cecid fly, locally known as *kurikong*, first identified in the Philippines in 1987 as the leading cause of the low yield, resulting in losses of seventy to one hundred percent (70-100%) to date, 33 years after the initial infestation, has no proven protocol or pesticide;

WHEREAS, the *kurikong* infestation spreads unabated today, despite the massive use of pesticides and intensive bagging of immature fruit, reducing farmer's income and requiring emergency government intervention;

WHEREAS, while the rice industry is supported by government directly at upwards of 18 billion pesos, the mango industry, which is worth 24 billion pesos and

is responsible for almost USD 18 million worth of exports, derive only a miniscule sum under the National High Value Crops Development Program with a 2020 allocation of 399.6 million pesos;

WHEREAS, the industry must also strengthen the Mango Farmer associations, cooperatives, organizations, processors and exporter groups as well as provide training and educational support and promote Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) given that improper pesticide use resulted in resistance of *kurikong* to common pesticides, reducing their effectiveness;

WHEREAS, given the abovementioned circumstances, there is a need for emergency government intervention, research and development into the rampant infestation of the mango plantations, as well as stricter regulations in the transport of mangoes within and without the country;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, urging the appropriate Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the status of the government initiatives and programs to contain and eradicate the Cecid fly infestation of the mango industry.

Adopted


IMEE R. MARCOS