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

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SENATE

P.S. Resolution No. 67

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Introduced by SENATOR LUISA "LOI" P. EJERCITO ESTRADA

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RESOLUTION  
DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
AND FOOD TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,  
THE ALLEGED UNREGULATED INFLUX OF IMPORTED  
VEGETABLES INTO THE PHILIPPINES

WHEREAS, the Constitution provides in Article 12:

Sec. 12 The State shall promote the preferential use of Filipino labor, domestic materials and locally produced goods, and adopt measures that help make them competitive.

Sec. 13. The State shall pursue a trade policy that serves the general welfare and utilizes all forms and arrangement of exchange on the basis of equality and reciprocity.

WHEREAS, the Philippines imports more than 30 kinds of fresh/chilled vegetables which includes tomatoes, onions, garlic, leeks, cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, lettuce, carrots, turnips, radishes, cucumber, peas, beans, mushrooms, celery, and spinach, among others;

WHEREAS, local vegetable growers have been complaining about the influx of imported vegetables into the country, since in 2002 alone, the Philippines imported about 328.7 million pesos worth of fresh/chilled vegetables as compared to 295 million pesos the previous year, according to the National Statistics Office;

WHEREAS, the country's main supplier was China, accounting for 82% of the total volume of imported vegetables in 2002, and includes Hong Kong, the Netherlands, India, Australia, and Denmark, among others;

WHEREAS, local vegetable growers are complaining because they have noticed a slowdown in the trading of their products, especially in July and August of last year, due to the alleged increasing incidence of smuggling of agricultural products into the country despite the low tariffs on imports;


WHEREAS, according to the mayor of La Trinidad, Benguet, official figures from the Department of Agriculture (DA) on imported vegetables are understated, for instance, from July to October 15, 2002, the DA estimated vegetable imports to have reached only 300 tons while a La Trinidad Task Force indicated the volume to have amounted to 900 tons;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Vegetable Importers/Exporters, Inc., an organization of legitimate vegetable importers, has also denounced this alleged smuggling and has called for a reasonable regulation of imported vegetables;

WHEREAS, the influx of alleged smuggled vegetables, said to be coming from China, Taiwan and Australia, have found a lucrative market in the Philippines, to the detriment and prejudice of local vegetable growers and legitimate importers;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Senate, to direct the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Food, to investigate, in aid of legislation, the alleged unregulated influx of imported vegetables into the country.

Adopted

  
**LUISA "LOI" P. EJERCITO ESTRADA**  
Senator