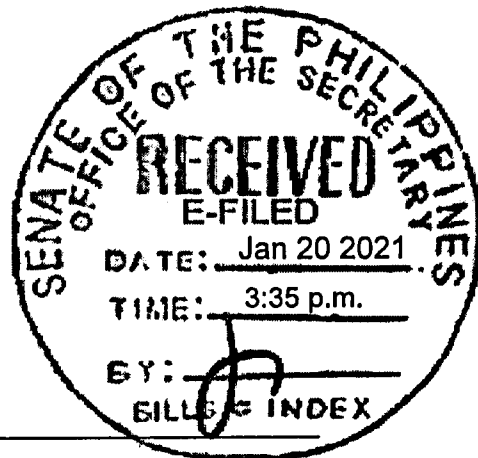


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )

SENATE  
P.S. Resolution No. 619



Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

### RESOLUTION

**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE CAUSES OF SOARING PRICES OF FOOD AND THUS URGE THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO EXPLAIN THE STATUS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STIMULUS PROGRAM PROVIDED UNDER R.A. NO. 11494 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "BAYANIHAN TO RECOVER AS ONE ACT" AND THE FAILURE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY TO EFFICIENTLY IMPLEMENT R.A. NO. 7581 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "PRICE ACT"**

**WHEREAS**, Art. XII, Sec. 1 of the 1987 Constitution provides that the State shall ensure an equitable distribution of opportunities, income, and wealth for the benefit of the people as a key to raising the quality of life. Moreover, it is the declared policy of the State to ensure food security and affordable food supply to all;

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Finance (DOF) urged the Department of Agriculture (DA) to restructure DA's programs to ensure enough food supply and stabilize prices following an uptick in inflation in December 2020. DOF Undersecretary Gil Beltran said that the inflation in December accelerated to 3.5% from 3.3% in November mainly due to higher food prices, particularly vegetables and meat;

**WHEREAS**, in December 2020, the price of vegetables rose by 19.7%, meat prices increased by 10.00%, and rice prices also rose by 0.1%, with the regions directly battered by typhoons, such as Cagayan Valley and Bicol, registering the highest increase;

**WHEREAS**, aside from the rise in food prices, transportation costs of goods also accelerated to 8.3% in December last year from 7.6% in the previous month, contributing to the inflation;

**WHEREAS**, the said inflation happened as the international crude oil prices climbed by nearly 11% to \$48.76 per barrel from \$43.95 per barrel due to tighter supply arising from demand recovery;

**WHEREAS**, Acting Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Karl Chua said that the recent uptick in prices showed the need to "*improve supply chain efficiency to ensure that prices of essential goods and services remain stable*";

**WHEREAS**, the DA officials blamed the increase in prices on numerous factors such as the ongoing pandemic, the devastating typhoons that destroyed crops, and the unwillingness of poultry and hog raisers to farm anew following the glut and the spread of the African swine fever, among others;

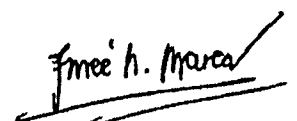
**WHEREAS**, in view of the continuing crisis brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and to adopt measures aimed towards mitigating the economic and financial impacts of the current situation, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte issued Executive Order No. 123 on 15 January 2021 in order to modify the rates of import duty on certain agricultural products under R.A. No. 10863 otherwise known as the "*Customs Modernization and Tariff Act*";

**WHEREAS**, such policy development prioritizes importation of food, to the detriment of local farmers and producers, and pose a threat to the food security of the country;

**WHEREAS**, there seems to be failure on the part of the DA to strategically utilize the P24 billion appropriation under R.A. No. 11494 otherwise known as the "*Bayanihan to Recover as One Act*" and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to implement R.A. No. 7581 otherwise known as the "*Price Act*" to guarantee affordable food supply during this time of COVID-19 pandemic;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, directing the appropriate Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the causes of soaring prices of food and, thus, urge the Department of Agriculture to explain the status in the implementation of the Stimulus Program provided under R.A. No. 11494 otherwise known as the "*Bayanihan to Recover as One Act*" and the failure of the Department of Trade and Industry to efficiently implement R.A. No. 7581 otherwise known as the "*Price Act*".

*Adopted,*

  
**IMEE R. MARCOS**