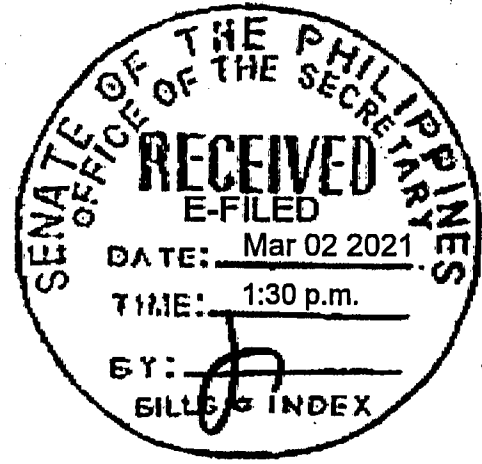


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Second Regular Session

)
)
)



SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 672

Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

RESOLUTION

URGING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PHILIPPINES' DROP IN THE GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY RANKING AND POOR SCORES ON FOOD SECURITY INDICATORS OF AFFORDABILITY AND QUALITY AND SAFETY, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF IDENTIFYING URGENT AND NECESSARY INTERVENTIONS IN AGRICULTURE AND THE NATIONAL FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN, LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE OF FOOD SECURITY AND SAFETY IN THE COUNTRY, AND ENSURING ACCESS OF EVERY FILIPINO TO NUTRITIOUS, AFFORDABLE AND SAFE FOOD

1 WHEREAS, the Global Food Security Index (GFSI) is a quantitative and
2 qualitative benchmarking model developed by The Economist Intelligence Unit which
3 examines 59 unique indicators that measure the drivers of food security under four
4 main categories of affordability, availability, quality and safety, and natural resources
5 and resilience of 113 countries¹;

6 WHEREAS, in the 2020 edition of the GFSI, the Philippines ranked 73rd with a
7 total food security score of 55.7, which is three spots lower than the previous report.
8 The Philippine mark is 15th out of the 23 countries assessed in the Asia Pacific region;

9 WHEREAS, of the four main categories examined, the Philippines ranked 85th
10 in "Quality and Safety" which measured dietary diversity, nutritional standards,
11 micronutrient availability, and food safety (referring to access to drinking water, ability
12 to store food safely, among others), and ranked 107th in "Natural Resources and

¹ <https://foodsecurityindex.eiu.com/>

1 Resilience” which assessed the country’s exposure to impacts of climate change,
2 susceptibility to natural resource risks, and how the country is adapting to these risks²;

3 WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture reported that damages to agriculture
4 brought about by the typhoons that hit the country in 2019 amounted to P16 billion.
5 In 2018, the country incurred P34.45 billion in losses from typhoons and droughts³.
6 In 2020, the onslaught of three successive typhoons Quinta, Rolly, and Ulysses alone
7 caused at least P12 billion in damaged agriculture⁴;

8 WHEREAS, according to the 2020 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the
9 World report of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for the period between
10 2017 and 2019, there are 18.8 million Filipinos who were considered severely food
11 insecure (higher than the estimated 12.4 million in 2014-2016), while 15.4 million
12 were considered undernourished Filipinos (higher than the 12 million recorded in
13 2014-2016). The report also noted that the Philippines has the highest count of food-
14 insecure citizens in Southeast Asia compared to Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia,
15 Singapore and Vietnam⁵;

16 WHEREAS, in a survey released by the Social Weather Stations (SWS)
17 conducted last November 2020, 16% or an estimated four million families experienced
18 involuntary hunger at least once in the past three months. The said hunger rate is
19 lower than the record-high rate of 30.7% (or 7.6 million families) in September 2020,
20 but double the pre-pandemic level of 8.8% (or 2.1 million families) in December 2019⁶;

21 WHEREAS, Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reported that inflation surged
22 to 4.2% in January 2021, which is higher than the 3.5% posted in December 2020
23 and the 2.9% in January 2020. Moreover, food and non-alcoholic beverages pushed
24 inflation up, with meat (17.1%), vegetables (21.2%), and fruits (9%) posting the
25 highest increases⁷;

² Ibid.

³ “Typhoons-inflicted damage to agriculture in 2019 hit P 16B.” January 4, 2020.

<https://business.inquirer.net/286540/typhoons-inflicted-damage-to-agriculture-in-2019-hit-p-16b>

⁴ “Loss in agriculture from recent typhoons now at P12.3B.” November 19, 2020.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1362521/loss-in-agriculture-from-recent-typhoons-now-at-p12-3b>

⁵ “59M Filipinos went hungry in 2017-19, says FAO.” July 16, 2020.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1307485/59m-filipinos-went-hungry-in-2017-19-says-fao#:~:text=The%20FAO%20defines%20food%20insecurity,an%20active%20and%20healthy%20life.&text=T>

[he%20Philippines%20has%20around%2018.8,recorded%20between%202014%20and%202016.](https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1307485/59m-filipinos-went-hungry-in-2017-19-says-fao#:~:text=The%20FAO%20defines%20food%20insecurity,an%20active%20and%20healthy%20life.&text=The%20Philippines%20has%20around%2018.8,recorded%20between%202014%20and%202016.)

⁶ <http://www.sws.org.ph/swsmain/artcldisppage/?artcsyscode=ART-20201216145500>

⁷ “Food even more expensive, pushing inflation to 4.2% in January 2021.” February 5, 2021.

<https://www.rappler.com/business/inflation-rate-philippines-january-2021>

1 WHEREAS, food security is a basic issue which concerns all Filipinos, and
2 primarily affects the most vulnerable and poorest sectors of the society, especially in
3 this time of the pandemic;

4 WHEREAS, the onslaught of typhoons and other natural calamities regularly
5 threaten the supply of food and other agricultural products, and the stability of food
6 prices in the country. The effects of the changing climate are expected to bring harsher
7 impact on the country's environment, as well as in its capacity to feed the Filipino
8 families, and put pressure on the government to implement measures towards a more
9 sustainable, disaster-resilient, and efficient food supply chain;

10 WHEREAS, there is a need to protect Filipinos, especially children, against
11 hunger and malnutrition, and to ensure that there is equitable access to healthy,
12 inexpensive, and safe agricultural produce and food products, more importantly in this
13 period of national emergency;

14 WHEREAS, there is a need to enhance the markers of food security in the
15 country through review and/or institution of policies towards disaster risk mitigation,
16 management and adaptation, protection of the environment against degradation and
17 pollution, upgrade of agricultural infrastructure and support to farmers and food
18 producers, and implementation of food safety nets and relevant social welfare
19 programs, among others;

20 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate, to
21 urge the appropriate Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on
22 the Philippines' drop in the Global Food Security Ranking and poor scores on food
23 security indicators of affordability and quality and safety, with the end in view of
24 identifying urgent and necessary interventions in agriculture and the national food
25 supply chain, looking into the future of food security and safety in the country, and
26 ensuring access of every Filipino to nutritious, affordable and safe food.

Adopted,


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.