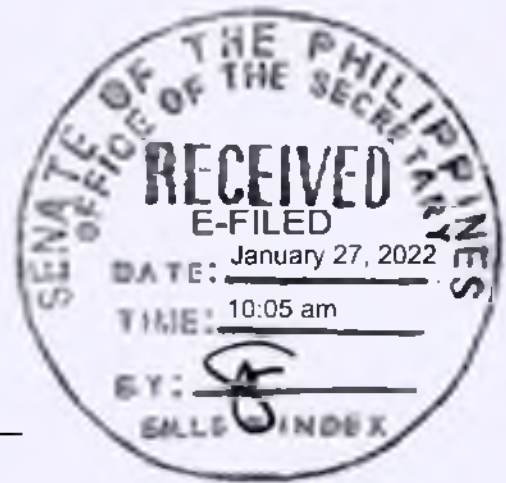


**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
Third Regular Session**

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**SENATE**

**P.S. Res. No. 989**



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**Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.**

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE/S TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S MOVE TO IMPORT 60,000 METRIC TONS (MT) OF SMALL PELAGIC FISH, DESPITE REPORT OF AVAILABLE AND SUFFICIENT FISH STOCKS AND ITS EXPECTED DETRIMENTAL EFFECTS TO THE LOCAL FISHERIES SECTOR, WITH THE END VIEW OF REVIEWING POLICIES IN NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY**

1           WHEREAS, Secretary William Dar of the Department of Agriculture (DA) signed  
2 the Certificate of Necessity to Import (CNI) 60,000 metric tons (MT) of small pelagic  
3 fish to cover "the projected fish supply shortfall in the first quarter of 2022"<sup>1</sup>;

4           WHEREAS, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) projects a  
5 deficit of about 119,000 MT for this quarter, primarily due to the significant damage  
6 brought by typhoon "Odette" last December 2021 to the fisheries sector which is  
7 estimated at almost four billion pesos, and reduced fish production following the closed  
8 fishing season;

9           WHEREAS, the National Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council  
10 (NFARMC) is a multi-sectoral group composed of the Undersecretary of the DA;  
11 Undersecretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG); five  
12 members from the fisherfolk and fishworkers; five members representing the  
13 commercial fishing, aquaculture operators and processing sectors; two members from  
14 the academe; and one representative of non-government organizations (NGOs)

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<sup>1</sup> "DA sees necessity to import 60k MT of fish in first quarter of 2022." January 18, 2022.  
<https://www.da.gov.ph/da-sees-necessity-to-import-60k-mt-of-fish-in-first-quarter-of-2022/>

1 involved in fisheries, which serves as an advisory and recommendatory body to the  
2 DA;

3 WHEREAS, fisheries industry representatives of the NFARMC unanimously  
4 rejected the proposal to import fish saying the move was unnecessary, and questioned  
5 the veracity of data used to support the importation;

6 WHEREAS, Dennis Calvan of the Pangingsda Natin Gawing Tama (Panagat  
7 Network)<sup>2</sup>, a member of the NFARMC, said that “about 45,000 MT of small pelagic fish  
8 imports from last year’s importation are yet to be consumed” while “about 32,000 MT  
9 of the volume are still in the cold storages”;

10 WHEREAS, the Alliance of Philippine Fishing Federations, Inc. also issued a  
11 resolution opposing fish importation, citing that almost one million Filipinos dependent  
12 on the fisheries sector will be greatly affected of their livelihood – fishermen, sardines  
13 cannery people, processors, truckers, port workers, traders, resellers and many others  
14 – with the planned continued importation of small pelagic fish and will severely  
15 jeopardize local fish production<sup>3</sup>;

16 WHEREAS, in the same resolution, the Alliance stated that the lifting of closed  
17 fishing season by the end of January 2022 and another by the end of February 2022  
18 and the reopening of the fishing season coinciding with the fish importation will  
19 “certainly be detrimental to the local fishing operators”<sup>4</sup>;

20 WHEREAS, as there is a need to effectively manage the food supply and ensure  
21 that food prices remain affordable, it is equally imperative to protect the livelihood and  
22 welfare of the local fisherfolk, subsistence fishermen and the local fisheries industry  
23 against the impending deluge of imported fish entering the country;

24 WHEREAS, there appears a need to evaluate the implementation, budgetary  
25 allocation and effectivity of existing programs related to strengthening domestic food  
26 production, specifically those supporting the fisheries sector, to boost productivity,  
27 improve local output and attain self-sufficiency;

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<sup>2</sup> “DA’s move to import fish stirs more questions.” January 24, 2022.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/01/24/das-move-to-import-fish-stirs-more-questions/>

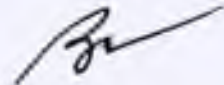
<sup>3</sup> “Resolution Urgently Opposing the Issuance of Certification of Necessity to Import 60,000 MT of Fish by the Department of Agriculture.” Alliance of Philippine Fishing Federations, Inc. January 20, 2022.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

1           WHEREAS, the situation also calls for a revisiting of the impact of changing  
2 climate, extreme weather events, and pollution of marine resources to the fisheries  
3 sector and to the overall food production capacity of the country in order to prepare  
4 against threats to food supply and institute measures towards ensuring food security  
5 for the population;

6           NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate, to  
7 direct the appropriate Senate Committee/s to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation,  
8 on the Department of Agriculture's move to import 60,000 metric tons (MT) of small  
9 pelagic fish, despite report of available and sufficient fish stocks and its expected  
10 detrimental effects to the local fisheries sector, with the end view of reviewing policies  
11 in national food security.

*Adopted,*

  
**RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.**