SENATE

## THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES Second Regular Session

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RECEIVED BY :

SENATE 32? P.S. Resolution No.

Introduced by Senator Magsaysay, Jr.

## RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED MISMANAGEMENT AND USE OF THE FERTILIZER FUND OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S GININTUANG MASAGANANG ANI PROGRAM TO THE DETRIMENT OF FILIPINO FARMERS WITH THE END IN VIEW OF CHARTING EFFECTIVE POLICIES AND PROGRAMS FOR THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

WHEREAS, one of the hallmarks of the 1987 Philippine Constitution is the prominence of declarations aimed at preventing wastage of government resources through the institutions of the so-called "sunshine laws", viz:

- Section 27, Article II, stating "[t]he State shall maintain honesty and integrity in public service and take positive and effective measures against graft and corruption.";
- Section 28, Article II, providing "[s]ubject to reasonable conditions prescribed by law, the state adopts and implements a policy of full public disclosure of all its transactions involving public interest.
- Section 7, Article III, mandating "[t]he right of the people to information on matters of public concern shall be recognized. Access to official records, and to documents, and papers pertaining to official acts, transactions, or decisions, as well as to government research data used as basis for policy development, shall be afforded the citizen, subject to such limitation as may be provided by law.';
- Section 1, Article XI, declaring "[p]ublic office is a public trust. Public Officers and employees must at all times be accountable to the people, serve them with utmost responsibility, integrity, loyalty, and efficiency, act with patriotism and justice, and lead modest lives.

WHEREAS, the Ginintuang Masaganang Ani Program of the Department of Agriculture is envisioned to generate employment, increase farmers' income, and achieve greater food security;

WHEREAS, the fund resources of the Program are meant for the procurement and distribution of certified seeds (inbred and hybrid) and fertilizer, provision of other location specific intervention, Research and Development (R & D) to improve productivity and farmer's income and National Expansion of Farmers Field Schools revitalization of national extension system; WHEREAS, the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ) in a report revealed that the Department of Agriculture released fertilizer funds during the 2004 presidential campaign and records would bear that the Department of Budget and Management authorized the release Seven Hundred Twenty-eight Million Pesos (P 728, 000,000,00) for the purchase of farm inputs and implements;

*WHEREAS*, farmers and farm organizations declared that they never received a single-centavo worth of fertilizers or farm inputs intended for their respective districts and accordingly, some of those districts without agricultural lands were reportedly given appropriation for fertilizers;

WHEREAS, the truth in this particular issue must be resolved considering that the agriculture sector particularly our farmers are sweating it out to make both ends meet and are in dire need of government support: Now therefore be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, AS IT HEREBY RESOLVES, TO DIRECT THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED MISMANAGEMENT AND USE OF THE FERTILIZER FUND OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S GININTUANG MASAGANANG ANI PROGRAM TO THE DETRIMENT OF FILIPINO FARMERS WITH THE END IN VIEW OF CHARTING EFFECTIVE POLICIES AND PROGRAMS FOR THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR.

Adopted,

RAMON B. MAGGAYSAR