



**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE** )  
**REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES** )  
*First Regular Session* )

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**SENATE**  
**P.S. RES. NO. 565**

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Introduced by SENATOR FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO**

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**RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE PRESIDENT TO DECLARE A STATE OF NATIONAL CALAMITY DUE TO THE SEVERE IMPACT OF AFRICAN SWINE FEVER (ASF) ON THE SWINE INDUSTRY**

WHEREAS, the Philippine Swine Industry is a PHP 200-billion industry (USD 5 billion) and is considered as the largest among the livestock subsectors and second contributor to Philippine agriculture, next to rice;<sup>1</sup>

WHEREAS, the African swine fever (ASF) is a highly contagious viral disease of domestic and wild pigs, whose mortality rate can reach 100%. It is not a danger to human health, but it has devastating effects on pig populations and the farming economy;<sup>2</sup>

WHEREAS, the ASF, was first detected in the Philippines in 2019, spreading to 12 regions, 40 provinces, 458 municipalities, and 2,361 barangays nationwide;<sup>3</sup>

WHEREAS, this occurrence in 2019 devastated the industry locally as a great number of farms closed, and animals were killed and buried to control the spread of the disease. This resulted in the dramatic decrease of hogs inventory and increase of prices of pork;<sup>4</sup>

WHEREAS, from a total hog population of 12.8 million in 01 January 2020,<sup>5</sup> the country's total swine inventory was at 9.75 million as of 31 December 2022;<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Sonny N. Domingo, Maureen Ane D. Rosellon, Pauline Joy M. Lorenzo, and Arvie Joy A. Manejar, *Domestic Benchmarking of the Philippine Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry Industries*, Philippine Institute for Development Studies Discussion Paper Series No. 2022-19, May 2022, <https://pidswebs.pids.gov.ph/CDN/document/pidsdps2219.pdf>. Accessed on April 11, 2023.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.woah.org/en/disease/african-swine-fever/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.fao.org/animal-health/situation-updates/asf-in-asia-pacific/en>

<sup>4</sup> Philippine Hog Industry Roadmap 2022-2026, Executive Summary, page 1.; PSA Swine Situation Report October-December 2019, <https://psa.gov.ph/content/swine-situation-report-october-december-2019>

<sup>5</sup> Philippine Hog Industry Roadmap 2022-2026, page 17.

<sup>6</sup> <https://psa.gov.ph/content/swine-situation-report-october-december-2022>

WHEREAS latest government data showed that the virus has spread to 460 towns of 1,486 across 54 of 82 provinces already have incidents of ASF;<sup>7</sup>

WHEREAS, there is currently no effective vaccine against ASF. The virus is highly resistant in the environment, i.e., that it can survive on clothes, boots, wheels, and other materials. It can also survive in various pork products, such as ham, sausages or bacon;<sup>8</sup>

WHEREAS, there are reports that vaccines for ASF could soon be available in the country once the clinical trials for a Vietnam-made vaccine by the local agriculture product firm KPP Powers Commodities are completed and proven successful;<sup>9</sup>

WHEREAS Farmers' groups are lamenting what they describe as the government's weak response to the outbreak, as the industry can no longer afford thousands more hogs deaths while government waits for the ASF vaccine to be rolled out and also for the Department of Agriculture (DA) to set up the 10-hectare first border facility where pork imports can be inspected first for ASF before being released to the domestic market;<sup>10</sup>

WHEREAS, according to AGAP Party List Representative Nicanor Briones, hog raisers have lost P100 billion as the ASF continues to spread in the country.<sup>11</sup>

WHEREAS, the Philippine Chamber of Agriculture and Food Inc. (PCAFI) warned that the retail price of pork – which hit as high as P420 per kilo in Metro Manila markets in March – could further increase following reports of a looming shortage due to the African swine fever (ASF);

WHEREAS, last month, Department of Agriculture Assistant Secretary and spokesman Rex Estoperez confirmed the warning by the National Livestock Program (NLP) of a possible shortage of over 46,000 metric tons (MT) of pork in June, as against the projected demand of 145,849 MT. Even worse, NLP director Ruth Micalat-Sonaco revealed in the DA's consultation with stakeholders that the country could start experiencing a domestic pork shortage this month, with a possible shortfall of 11 days equivalent to some 56,000 M; <sup>12</sup>

Whereas, Republic Act No. 10121, or the "Philippine Disaster Reduction and Management Act of 2010" created the (a) National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management

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<sup>7</sup><https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2023/04/11/2257976/asf-outbreak-philippines-longer-more-destructive-farmers-group/amp/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.woah.org/en/disease/african-swine-fever/>

<sup>9</sup> Danessa Rivera, *Vaccines for ASF may be available soon*, The Philippine Star, February 20, 2023, <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2023/02/20/2246222/vaccines-asf-may-be-available-soon>.

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2023/03/13/2251182/editorial-containing-african-swine-fever>

<sup>11</sup> Bella Carioso, *Luzon hog raisers lose P100 billion to ASF*, The Philippine Star, March 26, 2023, <https://www.philstar.com/nation/2023/03/26/2254575/luzon-hog-raisers-lose-p100-billion-asf>. Accessed on April 11, 2023.

<sup>12</sup> Jovee Marie Dela Cruz, and Raadee S. Sausa, *As ASF soars and pork shortage looms, vaxx pushed*, Business Mirror, April 11, 2023, <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2023/04/11/as-asf-soars-and-pork-shortage-looms-vaxx-pushed/>, Accessed on April 11, 2023.

Fund (NDRRM Fund) that can be used "for relief recovery, reconstruction and other work or services in connection with natural or human induced calamities"; and (b) Quick Response Fund or a stand-by fund for relief and recovery programs in order that situation and living conditions of people in communities or areas stricken by disasters, calamities, epidemics, or complex emergencies, may be normalized as quickly as possible;

Whereas, a declaration of a State of Calamity throughout the Philippines due to ASF will, among others, afford the DA, as well as local government units (LGUs) and other concerned agencies, ample latitude to utilize appropriate funds, including the Quick Response Fund, in their disaster preparedness and response efforts to address the ASF outbreak;

Whereas, pursuant to Article VI, Section 25(5) of the 1987 Philippine Constitution and Section 76 of the 2023 General Appropriations Act (GAA), the President may also declare and use savings in their respective appropriations to augment actual deficiencies, which may be additional requirements for a program, activity or project in view of a declaration of a state of national calamity, incurred for the current year in any item of their respective appropriation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the President to declare a State of National Calamity due to the severe impact of African Swine Fever (ASF) on the swine industry.

Adopted,

  
**FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO**  
Senator