


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
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SENATE  
P. S. Resolution No. 139

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by SENATOR EDGARDO J. ANGARA

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**RESOLUTION**  
**CALLING THE PRESIDENT TO DECLARE A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN**  
**ALL COCONUT-GROWING PROVINCES IN THE PHILIPPINES TO ARREST**  
**THE MASSIVE INFESTATION OF THE COCONUT LEAF BEETLE**  
**(BRONTISPA LONGISSIMA GESTRO) AFFECTING**  
**THE COUNTRY'S COCONUT INDUSTRY.**

**WHEREAS,** The coconut leaf beetle, scientifically known as *Brontispa longissima (Gestro)*, is considered as one the most destructive pests of coconut and ornamental plants in the Asia-Pacific, causing great damage to seedlings and mature coconut palms, killing the young spears and eventually the whole palm.

**WHEREAS,** As reported by Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, in 2004, Vietnam, Samoa, Indonesia, Thailand, Lao-PDR, Cambodia, Maldives and China experienced tremendous losses in revenues resulting from widespread infestation and eventual death of many coconut palms due to the coconut leaf beetle.

**WHEREAS,** The infestation has now reached our shores. In 2005, in Pasay City, the coconut leaf beetle was first discovered in the country and is believed to have entered the country via importation of ornamental palms from Singapore and Thailand.

**WHEREAS,** According to the Philippine Coconut Authority, as of September 12, 2007, 133,329 trees have already been infested by the coconut leaf beetle in 25 affected provinces.

**WHEREAS,** As a measure to tackle the coconut leaf beetle infestation in the Philippines, the PCA has formed the *Brontispa* Action Team (BAT), composed of specialists from the PCA, National Crop Protection Center (NCPC), the Bureau of Plant Industry and the Department of Agriculture (DA), and has already caused the treatment of 54,102 of the infested trees.

**WHEREAS,** Considering, however, that the coconut is the country's top agricultural export, earning an average of US\$631.50 million annually, sustaining 23 million Filipinos, of which, 3.5 million are farmers, who are dependent on coconut for their livelihood, there is the extreme urgency and necessity that a state of emergency be declared in the affected provinces so as to

immediately arrest the fast spreading threat of coconut leaf beetle infestation in the country.

**WHEREAS,** The declaration of a state of emergency will not only enable the national government to institute immediate measures to address the destructive pest plaguing the country's coconut plantations but will also allow the local government units to use their calamity funds to combat the coconut leaf beetle infestation within their locality.

**WHEREAS,** The declaration of a state of emergency on all coconut-growing provinces, which comprises 68 out of the 79 provinces in the country, will likewise alert the public of this very serious crisis affecting our coconut industry to make them vigilant of any possible attack in their areas and to report immediately any affected trees to the nearest DA or PCA office.

**WHEREAS,** If no immediate measures are undertaken by the government, the beetle's spread on more areas will have devastating impact on both small and large-scale coconut plantations and may wipe out the whole coconut industry in the Philippines.

**NOW BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED,** That the President be called to declare a state of emergency in all coconut-growing provinces in the Philippines, provide emergency funds to implement the urgent measure to combat its spread and encourage the local government units to take remedial measures and provide funding therefore, to arrest the massive infestation of the coconut leaf beetle threatening to devastate the country's coconut industry.

*Adopted,*

  
**EDGARDO J. ANGARA**  
Senator