


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

8 APR -2 2010

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 336

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPENDING RICE SHORTAGE IN THE
COUNTRY AND THE ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES OF RICE HOARDERS

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 9 provides that: "The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all";

WHEREAS, recent news reports have continuously warned of an impending rice shortage in the Philippines due to rising domestic demand and tight inventories around the globe;

WHEREAS, according to Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) Executive Director Leocadio Sebastian, rice production had been increasing but could not catch up with the growing population;

WHEREAS, in Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, the total rice production was 14.6 million metric tons (MT) in 2005, 15.3 million MT in 2006, 16.3 million MT in 2007 and the projected harvest this year has been placed at 17.2 million MT;

WHEREAS, despite the increase in rice production, the country's population is also growing at a faster rate; it was 60.7 million in 1990, 76.3 million in 2000, 82.6 million in 2004, 86.2 million in 2006, 88.7 million in 2007, and 90.4 million projected for 2008;

WHEREAS, just 30 million to 35 million metric tons is traded in the world market, and because the volumes are so thin these are subject to price shocks;

WHEREAS, still another problem facing consumers in the Philippines is excessive hoarding by traders which creates a supply shortage in the market and sending prices up;

WHEREAS, due to the thinning supply in the world market, rice traders naturally take advantage of the best offer for bigger profits;

WHEREAS, there have been reports regarding the practice of diverting NFA rice to commercial sales which have been happening for a long time allegedly perpetrated by top officials in the National Food Authority (NFA) and Department of Agriculture (DA);

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need for the government to clamp down on rice hoarders who artificially hike prices for greater gains;

WHEREAS, it is also imperative for the government to immediately impose price controls on rice in order to protect the welfare of consumers and to guard them against unscrupulous traders;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the impending rice shortage in the country and the illegal activities of rice hoarders.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/dpm