

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

8 APR 15 P1:36

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 352

RECEIVED BY: JA

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE DWINDLING NUMBER OF AGRICULTURAL WORKERS IN ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR, AND ITS POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS IN THE COUNTRY'S AGRICULTURAL SECTOR AND EDUCATION SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 18 states that, "The State affirms labor as a primary social economic force. It shall protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare";

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* reported in its 1 April 2008 issue that local officials in Zamboanga del Sur claim that the region is running short of agriculturalists and rice farmers;

WHEREAS, it was reported that of the 400 graduates from Saint Joseph College and Mindanao State University Annex this year, only nine took up BS Agriculture;

WHEREAS, local officials say that Zamboanga del Sur's agriculture sector, considered as one of the major rice producers in Western Mindanao, is losing students and young rice farmers to courses like nursing and computer science, as well as to the lure of working abroad or as call center agents;

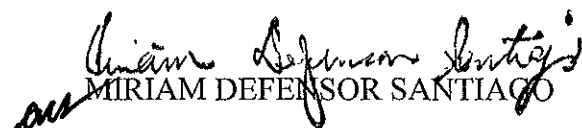
WHEREAS, local officials predict that if the situation remains or worsens for the next five or ten years, the region will experience rice shortage because most of the aging farmers, and with their children working abroad, will ultimately abandon their rice farm or sell it;

WHEREAS, in the context of the rice shortage that the country is currently experiencing, the experience in Zamboanga del Sur should be strongly considered to be a possible national scenario so as to curb the country's current food shortage, and in the long run improve the country's agricultural sector and ensure food security;

WHEREAS, the agriculture sector provides the country with the most basic necessity, and our education system should ensure that the graduates it produces accommodate the needs of this sector;

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 dwindling number of agricultural workers in Zamboanga del Sur, and its possible implications in the country's agricultural sector and education system.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO