



INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

RESOLUTION
URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD TO
CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PHILIPPINES' FOOD
SECURITY AND SUFFICIENCY PROGRAM, WITH THE INTENTION OF
ENCOURAGING THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT TO APPROPRIATE
SUBSTANTIAL BUDGET SUPPORT AND ESTABLISHING WIDE PARTNERSHIP
WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR MAKING FOOD ACCESSIBLE TO FAMILIES AND
THEREBY ELIMINATE HUNGER IN THE COUNTRY

Whereas, the 1987 Philippine Constitution confirms that opportunities for employment and labor for the citizens should be provided by the government, as provided in Article II, Section 18, “[t]he State affirms labor as a primary social economic force. It shall protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare.”;

Whereas, 21.5 percent of Philippine households had suffered from hunger, dwindling in the unfortunate condition of not having anything to eat, as reported by the Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey conducted during the first week of September 2007;

Whereas, the hunger dilemma in the country continues to affect more families as majority of the population suffers poverty and thrives in the unfortunate pool of unemployment;

Whereas, the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) affirmed the recorded statistics, referring to 11 million Filipinos who are considered food-poor or living below subsistence level in the year 2003;

Whereas, the condition of hunger springs largely on the heightened inaccessibility of the people to food and resources, and not caused by allegations of food production shortage since that the agriculture and natural food resource sectors are continuously growing over the previous years;

Whereas, the rigid capacity of the poor to access food results to the undernourishment of more than 17 million Filipinos, as reported by the Food and Agricultural Organization in 2005;

Whereas, a column by UPAsia.com published on March 11, 2008 cited that the main problem of Filipinos lie on the lack of income to purchase food, appropriately that food is unevenly distributed over the country tipping abundant in areas where households have higher purchase powers over food expenditures;

Whereas, recently, Gawad Kalinga (GK), a group initiated by Couples for Christ and is focused in harnessing alternative solutions to address poverty in the country, has recently launched a food efficiency program called *Bayan-Anihan*;

Whereas, the Philippine Star on June 15, 2009 detailed GK's *Bayan-Anihan* program which aims to eradicate hunger by empowering poor families to produce their own food;

Whereas, the program is believed to be a solution by partner groups comprised by volunteers from the private sector, major corporations, schools and the government headed by the Department of Agriculture (DA), to address hunger in a society where not everyone is given the same, equal opportunity to access and purchase food to sustain one's needs;

Whereas, by giving families a portion of land which they could cultivate by starting a small vegetable garden in the backyard, the daily sustenance of the families could be provided by the vegetables they shall harvest;

Whereas, the program is an opportunity available for Filipinos who believe in their capacity to produce and develop means to eliminate hunger and rise amidst the sore of poverty;

Whereas, the government should be at the forefront of channeling the hope of Filipinos to rise amid poverty and economical challenges to reality;

Whereas, inculcating the model initiated by Gawad Kalinga, the government should supervise families on how they could maximize their income to sustain daily needs; aptly that livelihood seminars, private sector tie-ups for sustainable community growth and development of programs that will address hunger eradication should be given focus by the government; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Food to conduct an inquiry, *in aid of legislation*, on the Philippines' food security and sufficiency program, with the intention of encouraging the national government to appropriate substantial budget support and establishing wide partnerships with the private sector making food accessible to families and thereby eliminate hunger in the country.

Adopted,


MANNY VILLAR
Senator