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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

RESOLUTION
URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD TO CONDUCT AN ASSESSMENT ON THE EFFORTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, THE PHILIPPINE COCONUT AUTHORITY, AND OTHER STATE AGENCIES WITH REGARD TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PALM TREE INDUSTRY IN THE COUNTRY, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF CONSIDERING GOALS AND SPECIFIC MEASURES TO FACILITATE THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE TWO-CROP INDUSTRY FOR COCONUT AND PALM OIL PRODUCTION AND TO HELP THE FILIPINO FARMERS IN GENERAL

Whereas, 2.7 million hectares, which accounts for 23% of the total croplands, and 74% of commercial croplands in the Philippines are planted to coconut trees, justly that the country is recognized as the world's biggest exporter of coconut oil;

Whereas, based on the 2009 estimate by the United Coconut Associations of the Philippines (UCAP), 835,000 tons of coconut oil shipment is foreseen to be exported out of the country;

Whereas, the Philippines sells 80% of its coconut oil produce overseas, but which only accounts for less than 5% of the oils available in the global market;

Whereas, the UCAP also affirmed the production of 2.516 million tons of copra, the dried coconut meat from which oil is extracted, for the current year;

Whereas, however, there has been an evident drop in local production of coconut oil in recent years due to the growing popularity of vegetable oils, such as the palm oil;

Whereas, palm oil production, which is dominated by palm oil sectors both in Malaysia and Indonesia is incited to be likewise employed in the country because of its wide-ranging benefits accounting that for instance, one-hectare of coconut tree plantation produces only 870 kilos of copra as contrasted to one-hectare of palm tree plantation that will yield up to 5 tons of oil;

Whereas, the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), being the prime agency overseeing research developments and production expansion of local coconuts stressed that the country should consider developing a two-crop industry for coconut oil and palm oil;

Whereas, it is undoubtedly true that the production of coconut trees intended for overseas trade has been a dependable industry to which the export industry of the country is largely

dependent, however the alternative of utilizing palm tree production would indicate as much benefit to the export revenue and coconut production, which is a proposal being considered by the PCA;

Whereas, palm oil is widely used as cooking oil, also is an ingredient in margarine and feedstock for biofuel¹;

Whereas, Director Jesus Arranza of the PCA revealed that the Philippines has started efforts to establish palm tree production, aptly that about 100,000 hectares in Bukidnon is being intended for palm tree plantations, in addition to less than 20,000 hectares already planted to palm trees;

Whereas, the Department of Agriculture in a statement by Secretary Arthur Yap expressed that the agency has ordered the drawing up of a topographic map to locate for other potential areas suitable for palm tree production²: Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Food to conduct an assessment of the efforts of the Department of Agriculture, the Philippine Coconut Authority, and other State agencies with regard to the palm tree industry in the country, with the end in view of considering goals and specific measures to facilitate the advancement of the two-crop industry for coconut and palm oil production and to help the Filipino farmers in general.

Adopted,


MANNY VILLAR
Senator