

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

SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1515

RECEIVED BY



Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED RICE VARIETY
CONTAMINATED WITH GLUFOSINATE, A TOXIC AND DANGEROUS
SUBSTANCE IN HERBICIDES, TO THE DETRIMENT OF OUR HEALTH AND
ENVIRONMENT

WHEREAS, the *Constitution*, Article 2, Section 3 provides: The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature;

WHEREAS, it was reported in the 18 November 2009 issue of *Philippines Today*, that Bayer is allegedly contaminating rice with genetically modified organisms (GMO);

WHEREAS, the alleged GMO rice variety has a strong resistance to the herbicide, Glufosinate;

WHEREAS, environmental groups argue that the use of the Bayer GMO rice will lead to an increased use of glufosinate, thus, boosting the sales of Bayer;

WHEREAS, glufosinate is reportedly dangerous to humans and will soon be banned in Europe;

WHEREAS, an environmental advocate, Daniel Ocampo, was quoted as saying, "GMOs have never been proven safe for the environment and human health and most likely will have irreversible impacts on the unique biodiversity of rice-crops. Worse, corporate controlled GMOs further endanger farmers' livelihoods and food security";

WHEREAS, it was in 2007 when Bayer applied for the legalization of the contested GMO rice;

WHEREAS, the report said that the constitutionality of the Department of Agriculture's GMO approval process was questioned; hence, the court issued an injunction in the approval of the Bayer GMO rice;

WHEREAS, early this month, the court set aside the injunction upon petition of Bayer;

WHEREAS, it was reported that legal action was also filed against Bayer in the United States in 2006 for allegedly contaminating their farms with GM (Genetically Modified) rice seeds;

WHEREAS, the report also claimed that a test conducted by Environmental Rights Action/Friends of Earth Nigeria (ERA/FoEN) confirmed the presence of GM contamination in rice samples taken from West African countries;

WHEREAS, environmental groups warn the global community of the extent the biotechnology industry and its allies will go to allegedly distribute contaminated food supplies to unsuspecting consumers especially in Africa where there are weak biosafety laws;

WHEREAS, warnings from the international community should propel us to further strengthen our biosafety laws to protect us from corporate moguls out to amass profit to the detriment of our health and environment;

WHEREAS, the Bayer GMO rice must not be released to the commercial market and must not be allowed any access to farmers until the controversy surrounding it has been laid to rest;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation on the reported rice variety contaminated with glufosinate, a toxic and dangerous substance in herbicides, to the detriment of our health and environment.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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