

12 MAY -7 12:51

SENATE
P. S. RESOLUTION NO. 763

Introduced by Senator Francis N. Pangilinan

**RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD
TO LOOK INTO THE PROGRAMS AND POLICIES ON MEAT IMPORTATION
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ON THE NEED TO ENACT LEGISLATION TO STRENGTHEN
THE LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY OF THE COUNTRY AND PROTECT
LOCAL MEAT RAISERS AGAINST SMUGGLING**

WHEREAS, amid complaints of inaction of government agencies against rampant meat smuggling in the country, the local meat producers have warned of staging a pork holiday to stress the need for changes in the meat importation policies of government;

WHEREAS, the hog raisers estimate losses amounting to P8 billion from July last year to February this year due to smuggling. Local meat producers claim that prices of local meat in the country have plunged as imported and undervalued meat products flooded the market and sold for cheaper prices;

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture, through the National Meat Inspection Service and the Bureau of Animal Industry, handles the issuance of meat importation permits. On meat importation, the local meat industry alleges that meat importers have been misdeclaring prime cuts of meat as fat, offal and skin to avoid payment of higher tariff rates. Offals have a tariff of five percent, and prime cuts have a 35-percent tariff;

WHEREAS, the underdeclaration of the value of imported meat has been a decades-long problem in the country that the government has failed to address to the detriment of the local meat industry. The Department of Agriculture has been receiving criticisms for its alleged inaction on meat smuggling in spite of its programs and mandate focused on protecting the welfare of the local producers;

WHEREAS, local meat producers are clamouring for changes and reforms in the programs and policies of the government on meat importation, hence the Department of Agriculture need to assess the current problems and issues faced by the local meat industry and to ensure most importantly the health and welfare of the consumers that they serve;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, to direct the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Food to look into the programs and policies on meat importation of the Department of Agriculture on the need to enact legislation to strengthen the livestock industry of the country and protect local meat raisers against smuggling.

ADOPTED,

