

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



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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 162

RECEIVED BY: J. J.

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ESSENTIAL BENEFITS OF URBAN AGRICULTURE AS A
VIABLE SOLUTION TO THE LOOMING FOOD SHORTAGE

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 19 mandates: "The State shall develop a self-reliant and independent national economy effectively controlled by Filipinos";

WHEREAS, according to recent reports from Resource Centers on Urban Agriculture and Food Security, by 2020, developing countries will be home to some 75 percent of all urban dwellers and half of the poor in Asia will be concentrated in towns and cities;

WHEREAS, the United Nations Development Program estimates that 200 million urban residents provide food for the market and 800 million urban dwellers are actively engaged in urban agriculture in one way or another;

WHEREAS, urban agriculture is integrated into the urban economy which involves growing plants and raising livestock within and around cities by urban residents who are themselves the farm laborers;

WHEREAS, it was reported that urban agriculture uses typical urban resources like organic waste as compost and urban wastewater for irrigation and thus impacts directly on urban ecology;

WHEREAS, a large part of the people involved in urban agriculture is the urban poor; in many cities, one will often find lower and mid-level government officials, school teachers and the like;

WHEREAS, it was also reported that urban farming may take place on the homestead (on-plot) or on land away from the residence (off-plot), on private land (owned, leased) or on public land (parks, conservation areas, along roads, streams and railways), or semi-public land (schoolyards, grounds of schools and hospitals);

WHEREAS, urban agriculture reportedly includes food products, from different types of crops (grains, root crops, vegetables, mushrooms, fruits) and animals (poultry, rabbits, goats, sheep, cattle, pigs, guinea pigs, fish, and so on) as well as non-food products (like aromatic and medicinal herbs, ornamental plants, tree products, etc.);

WHEREAS, urban agriculture was said to play an important role in countering the rapid urbanization as well as the increase in urban poverty and urban food insecurity

WHEREAS, urban agriculture was said to provide a complementary strategy to reduce urban poverty and food insecurity and enhance urban environmental management;

WHEREAS, urban agriculture is reportedly essential in enhancing urban food security since the costs of supplying and distributing food to urban areas based on rural production and imports continue to increase, and do not satisfy the demand, especially of the poor;

WHEREAS, next to food security, urban agriculture allegedly contributes to local economic development, poverty alleviation and social inclusion of the urban poor and women in particular, as well as to the greening of the city and the productive reuse of urban wastes;

WHEREAS, it was also reported that besides the economic benefits for the urban agricultural producers, urban agriculture stimulates the development of related micro-enterprises: the production of necessary agricultural inputs and the processing, packaging and marketing of outputs;

WHEREAS, urban agriculture may also impact positively upon the greening and cleaning of the city by turning derelict open spaces into green zones and maintaining buffer and reserve zones free of housing;

WHEREAS, this is a viable solution to the perennial problem of the urban poor to inadequate, unreliable and irregular access to food, and the lack of purchasing power;

WHEREAS, urban agriculture to a large extent complements rural agriculture and increases the efficiency of the national food system in that it provides products that rural agriculture cannot supply easily;

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 essential benefits of urban agriculture as a viable solution to the looming food shortage.

Adopted,

acc. 
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/dpm