

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

Senate
Office of the Secretary

13 SEP 11 P5:14

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 243

RECEIVED

ja

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED ONION AND GARLIC SMUGGLING
OPERATIONS IN THE COUNTRY

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 19 declares the policy of the State to develop a self-reliant and independent national economy effectively controlled by Filipinos;

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 12 Section 1, Paragraph 2 requires the State to protect Filipino enterprises against unfair foreign competition and trade practices;

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Star*, in its 4 September 2013 issue, reported that government authorities failed to stop the smuggling of onion and garlic according to a farmers' group;

WHEREAS, in the report, officers of the Sibuyas ng Pilipino Ating Alagaan (SIPAG) said that more than 100 farmers and onion growers asked Aquino to stop the officials of the Department of Agriculture from allegedly issuing an import permit to a group;

WHEREAS, SIPAG officers reportedly said that local markets are being flooded by low-priced onions and garlic from China, Vietnam and nearby countries, killing the livelihood of local growers;

WHEREAS, SIPAG officers said that they have raised the problem to Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala, but he has allegedly failed to act on it;

WHEREAS, there is a need to propose measures to strengthen trade laws and agreements, protect consumers, and stabilize the price of onions and other basic agricultural commodities in the local market;

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 reported rampant onion and rice smuggling.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
ocr