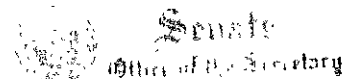


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )



13 SEP 11 P5:14

SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 244

RECEIVED *[Signature]*

---

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

---

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED CLAIMS THAT THE COST OF THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY'S LATEST RICE IMPORTATION FROM VIETNAM WAS DISADVANTAGEOUS TO THE GOVERNMENT BY P457 MILLION

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 27 states that "The State shall maintain honesty and integrity in the public service and take positive and effective measures against graft and corruption";

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* in its 30 August 2013 issue reported that the National Food Authority's (NFA), under the Department of Agriculture (DA), imported last April 2013 some 187,000 metric tons of rice from Vietnam at an overprice of P19,762 per metric ton;

WHEREAS, the report was based on activist-lawyer Argee Guevarra's claims that the cost of the NFA's latest rice importation from Vietnam was disadvantageous to the government by at least P457 million;

WHEREAS, the report quoted Guevarra who said that while government-to-government contracts are supposed to be more cost-effective, the payment made by the NFA was way higher than the prevailing market price in Vietnam when the deal was made, which then reportedly stood only at P15,480 per metric ton;

WHEREAS, the report said that on top of the imported 187,000 metric tons of rice from Vietnam, Guevarra also alleged that the NFA "inserted" the purchase of another 18,700 metric tons of rice without any prior approval from the Department of Finance under the Fiscal Incentive Review Board;

WHEREAS, Guevarra said he would bring his findings to the Office of the Ombudsman or the newly created Inter-Agency Anti-Graft Coordinating Council for further investigation;

WHEREAS, on the wake of the controversial multibillion pesos pork barrel scam, there is a pressing need for the enactment of new measures that guarantee transparency in the financial transactions of the government, particularly those that have direct impact in the lives of every Filipino such as the purchase of agricultural commodities;

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 claims that the cost of the National Food Authority's latest rice importation from Vietnam was disadvantageous to the government by P457 million.

Adopted,

*Miriam Defensor Santiago*  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
*cur*

/lfd