

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

Office of the Secretary

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SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 248

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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RESOLUTION  
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID  
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED AGING AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE IN  
THE COUNTRY

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 21 states that "The State shall promote comprehensive rural development and agrarian reform";

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 12, Section 1, paragraph 1 provides: "The goals of the national economy are a more equitable distribution of opportunities, income, and wealth; a sustained increase in the amount of goods and services produced by the nation for the benefit of the people; and an expanding productivity as the key to raising the quality of life for all, especially the underprivileged;

WHEREAS, the *Manila Bulletin*, in the article "Farmers Getting Older; Land Smaller" printed in its 8 September 2013 issue, reported that Leyte famers are getting older and their farms are getting smaller, citing a survey data from the Department of Agriculture (DA);

WHEREAS, it was reported that 52 percent of farmers in the said province are 50 years old and above, while 25 percent of the farming workforce are 40 to 49 years old;

WHEREAS, it was also reported that 17 percent of farm owners and workers are within the 30 to 39 age bracket, while those in the 20 to 29 age group only comprise 0.26 percent of the workforce;

WHEREAS, DA officials reportedly said that 46 percent of the farmers in the province owns a land with an area of only one to three hectares, confirming government projections that land owned by farmers are getting smaller as a result of dividing their properties equally among farmers' heirs;

WHEREAS, according to the news report, farmers tilling a land with an area of three hectares and over account for only 35 percent of the total number of farm owners, and 18 percent of them cultivate an area one hectare or lower;

WHEREAS, it was reported that, in terms of educational attainment, 54 percent of farmers have either completed or merely reached elementary level, while six percent have completed college, which the report construed as the graduates of agriculture-related courses who opted to engage in other livelihood activities;

WHEREAS, according to the news report, Visayas State University has 215 students who completed agriculture-related courses out of 544 graduates, and that the school administration noted that there have been a growing number of students who prefer to take non-agriculture studies;

WHEREAS, DA officials reportedly said that agriculture is not drawing the interest of younger generations, and urged state universities and colleges and farmer leaders to show to the youth that there is money in agriculture;

WHEREAS, DA officials also reportedly said that the best way to make technology work in farms is through the youth, since it is hard for the old farmers to adopt to new technologies considering their educational attainment and their high preference for traditional methods;

WHEREAS, Congress should swiftly address these findings, and find out the national trends in the agricultural workforce so that we could formulate appropriate legislation in strengthening the country's agricultural sector.

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 aging agricultural workforce in the country.

Adopted,

*Miriam Defensor Santiago*  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
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