

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



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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1118

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[Signature]

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT THAT GARLIC CARTEL
FABRICATED THE ONION RACKET

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 9 provides: "The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all";

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

WHEREAS, Inquirer.net, in a news article posted on 9 January 2015, claimed that garlic cartel fabricated the onion racket;

WHEREAS, according to the report, the DOJ Office of the Competition (OFC) tagged the Vegetables Importers, Exporters and Vendors Association of the Philippines Inc. (Vieva Phil.) in the alleged onion racket;

WHEREAS, the same group was reportedly accused of manipulating garlic prices in an earlier report;

WHEREAS, the Department of Justice (DOJ) reportedly said that onion imports were allegedly controlled by the same group behind the garlic price manipulation;

WHEREAS, the DOJ revealed that the modus operandi discussed extensively in the OFC report on the price increase of garlic is also in place in onion importation, adding that import clearances were issued to a favored group;

WHEREAS, the OFC reportedly recommended the abolition of National Onion Action Team (NOAT), which was created by the Department of Agriculture to protect the onion industry;

WHEREAS, the DOJ reportedly said the DA failed in its task to detect hoarding and to properly monitor importation of onions;

WHEREAS, according to the OFC report, the DA failed to accurately monitor stock inventory and determine when imports should be allowed;

WHEREAS, according to the DOJ report from 2010 up to 2013, importer members of Vieva Phil. were purportedly shown to have been favored and issued import permits for onion, based on Plant Quarantine (Import Permits);

WHEREAS, the Congress must ensure fair trade among garlic and onion traders;

WHEREAS, involved authorities who practice favoritism which allows trade manipulation must be held accountable;

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct the proper Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the report that garlic cartel fabricated the onion racket;

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
RP

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