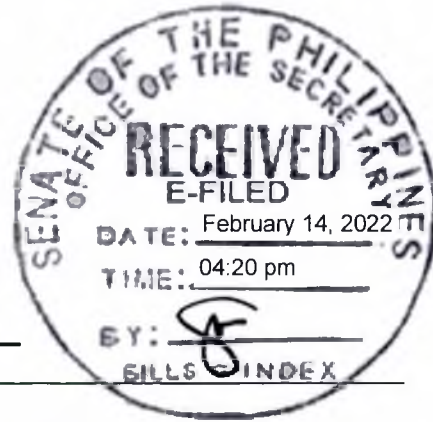


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Third Regular Session )

SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 995



Introduced by Juan Miguel F. Zubiri

**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND AGRARIAN REFORM TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE RECENT ORDER OF THE SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION TO ALLOW THE IMPORTATION OF SUGAR EVEN AT THE HEIGHT OF THE HARVEST AND MILLING SEASON, AS WELL AS IMPORTATION PROGRAMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ON OTHER AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS WITH THE END IN VIEW OF CRAFTING POLICY THAT WILL ENSURE SUPPORT FOR FARMERS AND FOOD SECURITY INSTEAD OF IMPORT DEPENDENCY**

**WHEREAS**, the Sugar Regulatory Administration's Sugar Order No. 3 for Crop Year 2021-2022 allows the importation of 200,000 MT of sugar to stabilize prices and supply deficits in the wake of Typhoon Odette;

**WHEREAS**, farmers have been complaining since last year on the import-dependent programs of the Department of Agriculture when it comes to agricultural products such as rice, corn, pork, beef, chicken, and fish as it negatively impacts their income and productivity;

**WHEREAS**, in the case of sugar farmers, they have been asking for help in dealing with skyrocketing fertilizer and diesel prices since last year, and they have not heard of any interventions from the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Sugar Regulatory Administration as urea now sells for around P2,400 from just P800 eighteen months ago and as diesel prices doubles from P27 over the same timeframe;

**WHEREAS**, in Negros Occidental for instance, millgate prices of several sugar mills have dropped significantly over two bidding weeks: Victorias Milling Company dropped by P240 for every 50-kilogram bag of raw sugar, SONEDCO by P213, Hawaiian Philippines and First Farmers by P136, and Central Azucarera de La Carlota by P188, while in the neighboring island of Iloilo, URC Passi dropped by P223 and millers in Bukidnon by about P100;

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Agriculture continues with its pro-import policies to the detriment of our own farmers even as the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the vital importance of our agricultural sector in providing our food requirements amid our strictest lockdowns;

**WHEREAS**, this sugar importation program of the Department of Agriculture during the harvest and milling season is contrary to the DA officials' commitment during the budget deliberation of the Department in the Senate plenary on November 15, 2021;

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to provide a clear-cut government policy on importation during the harvest and milling season not just for sugar but for other agricultural products as well so as not to unnecessarily burden our small and poor farmers;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate to direct the Committee on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the recent order of the Sugar Regulatory Administration to allow the importation of sugar even at the height of the harvest and milling season, as well as importation programs of the government on other agricultural products with the end in view of crafting policy that will ensure support for farmers and food security instead of import dependency.

**Adopted,**



**JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI**