

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

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SENATE P.S. Res. No. <u>731</u>

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT A FULL ASSESSMENT, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, OF THE CURRENT SITUATION OF PHILIPPINE TEXTILE AND GARMENTS INDUSTRY

WHEREAS, the Philippine Textile-Garment Industry Roadmap was launched in December 2019. The roadmap envisions a sustainable, competitive and integrated Philippine textile-garment industry that generates inclusive growth;

WHEREAS, the roadmap aims for the Philippines to be among the top 10 exporters of garments in the world by 2026-2029;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Textile Research Institute (PTRI) is the premiere textile research and development arm of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST). Pursuant to Executive Order No. 128 dated January 30, 1987, PTRI is mandated to perform the following duties: (a) conduct applied research and development for the textile industry sector; (b) undertake the transfer of completed researches to end-users or via linkage units of other government agencies; and (c) undertake technical services and provide training programs;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority (PhilFIDA) is an attached agency of the Department of Agriculture which is mandated to promote the growth and development of the natural fiber industry through research and development; production support; extension support, education and training services; fiber processing and utilization; and standards implementation and trade regulation;

WHEREAS, according to the DOST, the Philippines was considered a pioneer in the ASEAN region in terms of textile production. Large-scale textile manufacturing started as early as 1906 and peaked from 1960s to 1990s. Also, in the 1980s and 1990s, the country was in the top 10 global exporters of garments where about a million workers were in the textile industry;

WHEREAS, in 2016, the DOST presented a five-year (2016-2020) science and technology roadmap for textile to help the local textile industry to rise back to the ranks in the international community. The 2016 roadmap is aimed at making the Philippine textile industry culture-sensitive, robust, sustainable, and profitable based on Filipino knowledge using locally available raw materials;

WHEREAS, according to the PTRI, its efforts intend to bridge the gap between raw materials production and the distribution of apparel. The PTRI, as the textile and research arm of the DOST, envisions a "circular economy" to make the clothing industry sustainable – it is making sure Filipinos have enough to clothe ourselves, adding more value into products and adding more jobs;

WHEREAS, in January 2022, The Philippine Star reported in an online article that employers and labor groups are calling on the Department of Trade and Industry to update the roadmap for the textile and garment industry to take into account the impact of the pandemic, and for the implementation of strategies to support jobs recovery and generation in the sector;

WHEREAS, in July 2023, The Philippine Star reported in an online article that the government and the private sector are urged to work together to immediately implement the strategies under the Philippine Export Development Plan (PEDP) 2023 to 2028, in a bid to save the local clothing and apparel manufacturing industry from extinction amid the global trend of reshoring or onshoring;

WHEREAS, the figures from the PEDP showed that Philippine garments and textiles exports had a compounded annual growth rate of -7% from 2017 to 2021 versus the +3% global market compounded annual growth rate for the same period;

WHEREAS, the PEDP nonetheless expects that the young entrepreneurs driven by the energy of youth and the creativity of digitalization appears poised to take the wearables sector into a growth trajectory of Filipino global brands and that the garments and textile exports shall grow by +60% in 2028;

WHEREAS, according to Statista, in 2022, the gross value added generated from textile manufacturing in the Philippines amounted to around Php 44.6 billion, reflecting an increase from the previous year (Php 40.82 billion in 2021). Due to gaps in production, the Philippines largely imports textiles used for the manufacturing of garments;

WHEREAS, it is imperative to conduct a full assessment of the current situation of the country's textile and garments industry in order to identify priorities and pain points, as well as to come up with measures to reinvigorate, protect the stability and promote inclusive innovation in the industry;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Senate directs the appropriate Senate committees to conduct a full assessment, in aid of legislation, of the current situation of Philippine textile and garments industry.

Adopted,

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MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY