

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

6 JAN 23 2011

SENATE 119 RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
P. S. R. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION  
DIRECTING AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED  
MISUSE OF P26.1 MILLION FUNDS IN HYBRID RICE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 21 mandates that “the State shall promote comprehensive rural development and agrarian reform”;

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 13, Section 5 further provides that “the State shall recognize the right of farmers, farmworkers, and landowners, as well as cooperatives, and other independent farmers' organizations to participate in the planning, organization, and management of the program, and shall provide support to agriculture through appropriate technology and research, and adequate financial, production, marketing, and other support services”;

WHEREAS, the Rice Watch and Action Network (RWAN), a coalition of non-government organization, reported that there was an alleged misuse of Php26.1 million in seed subsidy for hybrid rice production program in four provinces namely Isabela, Nueva Ecija, Davao del Sur, and Iloilo;

WHEREAS, following recommendations for hybrid rice technology, the farmers use a bag of hybrid rice seed per hectare in commercial production;

WHEREAS, under the Ginjntuang Masaganang Ani (GMA) rice program, the Department of Agriculture (DA) subsidized 50 percent of the cost of seeds to the farmers; each bag of hybrid rice seed cost Php2,400 and the subsidy was Php1,200 per bag;

WHEREAS, according to Jean Yasol, a member of the RWAN’s research team, in 2004, the DA reported that 52,953 hectares of Riceland were planted with hybrid rice in Isabela which is considered as the hybrid rice capital of the country;

WHEREAS, RWAN alleges that the actual land area used for hybrid rice production was smaller than the allocated area in the records the DA;

WHEREAS, the Provincial Agricultural Office (PAO) records show that only 36,000 hectares were actually planted with hybrid rice; the discrepancy resulted in the unaccounted amount of more than Php20.2 million released by the DA as subsidy for the seeds used by the farmers;

WHEREAS, in Nueva Ecija, the DA reported a total of 14,180 hectares of riceland planted with hybrid rice;

WHEREAS, following recommendations for hybrid rice technology, the farmers use a bag of hybrid rice seed per hectare in commercial production, but the PAO reported an actual planted area of only 9,614 hectares; there remains an unaccounted subsidy amounting to Php5.4 million;

WHEREAS, similar discrepancies in the reported and actual area planted with hybrid rice in 2004 were also found in Davao del Sur and Iloilo; the total amount overstated in subsidy in the four provinces reached Php26,119,200;

WHEREAS, Dr. Frisco Malabanan, the DA's rice program director, denied the allegations saying that the hybrid rice program funds were used appropriately;

WHEREFORE, be it resolved, that the proper Senate committee shall conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the alleged misuse of Php26.1 million funds in hybrid rice program.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
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