

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

7 AUG 28 1972

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: *[Signature]*

P. S. Resolution No. 97

Introduced by SENATOR EDGARDO J. ANGARA

**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD AND COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, TOGETHER WITH THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE TO CONDUCT A JOINT INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE EXTENT AND SCOPE OF THE DROUGHT CAUSED BY THE DRY SPELL AND THE PREVALENCE OF SWINE FLU AND HOG CHOLERA IN SEVERAL PARTS OF LUZON, AS WELL AS THE IMMEDIATE MEASURES THE APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES HAVE TAKEN TO REMEDY SAID CALAMITIES, WITH THE END VIEW OF RECOMMENDING AND INSTITUTIONALIZING PROGRAMS TO PREVENT THE RECURRENCE OF THE SAME OR SIMILAR CALAMITIES AND/OR TO PREPARE FOR AND MITIGATE THEIR EFFECTS.**

**WHEREAS,** Philippne Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) reported that Metro Manila and most of Luzon were in the midst of a dry spell for the months of June and July, when the rainy season should have started, having registered below normal rainfall levels of 0 to 40% compared to the normal range of 80 to 120%.

**WHEREAS,** According to the Office of Civil Defense, because of the low amount of rainfall, more than 127,000 hectares of farmland have withered in Luzon with Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Cordillera Administrative Region and Bicol, being the most critically affected areas.

**WHEREAS,** During the last week of July, water levels in Angat Dam, San Roque Dam in Pangasinan, Magat Dam in Isabela and Pantabangan Dam in Nueva Ecija had dipped to way below their critical levels causing the reduction of water supply to Metro Manila and neighboring provinces and decreased amount of power generated by hydroelectric plants leading to brownouts in said areas.

**WHEREAS,** Aside from the dry spell, the agriculture sector was also hit by swine flu and hog cholera particularly in the Central Luzon provinces of Bulacan, Pampanga and Nueva Ecija.

**WHEREAS,** In Bulacan, considered as one of the largest sources of pork products and supplier of most of the meat needs of Metro Manila and its nearby provinces, 3,150 hogs and piglets from

194 backyard farms in 55 villages in 18 towns and two cities in were affected.

**WHEREAS,** In Pampanga, 2,157 hogs have died due to hog cholera.

**WHEREAS,** In Nueva Ecija, laboratory tests revealed that at least 6,000 hogs from 19 pig farms were found to have been infected by at least one of the swine diseases.

**WHEREAS,** PAGASA has declared that the dry spell is almost over while the Bureau of Animal Industry has announced that the outbreak of swine diseases is already under control.

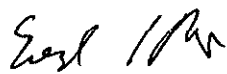
**WHEREAS,** Despite the abatement of the dry spell and swine diseases outbreak and considering that the Philippines have been previously affected by similar calamities such as the El Niño phenomenon in 1998 and the foot and mouth disease outbreak in 1995, the legislation and institutionalization of effective programs and measures to thwart their recurrence if preventable, or at least to prepare for and mitigate their effects, if they are unavoidable, is imperative.

**WHEREAS,** The continued deficiency or absence of effective government programs and measures to address the same or similar calamities can bring about dire consequences such as but not limited to decreased food supply which will trigger excessive inflation, increased health risks to the consuming public, and power shortages that can seriously cripple our economy.

**NOW BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED,** That the Committee on Agriculture and Food and Committee on Science and Technology, together with Committee on Finance be directed to conduct a joint inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the extent and scope of the drought caused by the dry spell and the prevalence of swine flu and hog cholera in several parts of Luzon, as well as the immediate measures the appropriate government agencies have taken to remedy said calamities.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED,** That the Committee on Agriculture and Food and Committee on Science and Technology, together with Committee on Finance be directed to craft the appropriate proposed legislation institutionalizing effective programs and measures to prevent the recurrence of the same or similar calamities and/or to prepare for and mitigate their effects.

*Adopted,*

  
**EDGARDO J. ANGARA**  
Senator