

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

7 SEP -4 1920

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

PSR No. 120

Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND WAYS AND MEANS TO CONDUCT, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, AN INQUIRY INTO THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8240 AND OTHER LAWS WITH FUNDING DEFICIENCIES, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF DETERMINING APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT LAWS ARE ADEQUATELY FUNDED AND IMPLEMENTED

WHEREAS, Section 1, Art. XII of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states that the goals of the national economy are a more equitable distribution of opportunities, income, and wealth; a sustained increase in the amount of goods and services produced by the nation for the benefit of the people; and an expanding productivity as the key to raising the quality of life for all, especially the underprivileged;

WHEREAS, Congress, over the years, enacted laws that mandate the provision of support services to the farmers and producers in the tobacco industry such as Republic Act (R.A.) Nos. 7171, 8240 and 9334;

WHEREAS, R.A. No. 8240 mandates the provision of support for *burley* and native tobacco producers by allocating funds that will finance cooperative, livelihood and agro-industrial projects that will enhance quality of agricultural products, increase income and productivity of farmers, develop alternative farming system, and enable tobacco farmers to be involved in the management and ownership of projects such as post-harvest and secondary processing like cigarette manufacturing and by-product utilization;

WHEREAS, the potential beneficiaries of said provision of the law are the provinces of Pangasinan, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, Occidental Mindoro, La Union, Abra, Isabela and Cagayan where *burley* tobacco is largely grown;

WHEREAS, Section 8 of R.A. No. 8240 provides that fifteen percent (15%) of the incremental revenue collected from the excise tax on tobacco products shall be allocated and divided among the provinces producing *burley* and native tobacco in accordance with the volume of tobacco leaf production;

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) has been collecting excise tax on tobacco products but the share of provinces producing *burley* and native tobacco have not been allocated and remitted;

WHEREAS, R.A. No. 8240 directed the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) to issue the corresponding rules and regulations governing the allocation and disbursement of the funds mentioned herein;

WHEREAS, from the time that R.A. No. 8240 was adopted in 1997, no implementing rules and regulations governing the allocation and disbursement of the aforementioned funds to intended province-beneficiaries have been adopted until today;

WHEREAS, records from the DBM show that as of 15 September 2005, there are a total of fifty-one (51) laws with funding deficiencies. It further reveals that a total of P291.587 billion is needed to meet the financing requirements of these laws;

WHEREAS, there is a need to look into the efforts of the government to raise revenues to fund these laws;

WHEREAS, it is imperative for Congress to ensure that there is sufficient funding for the implementation of existing laws and that the policy objectives of the same are achieved;

NOW BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the Senate Committees on Economic Affairs and Ways and Means to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the status of implementation of R.A. No. 8240 and other laws with funding deficiencies, with the end in view of determining appropriate measures to ensure that laws are adequately funded and implemented.

Adopted,


LOREN LEGARDA
Senator