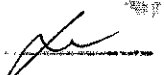


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

8 JUN 26 12:06

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 461

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE RISING PRICES OF FERTILIZERS ON THE
MARKET

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 21 states that, "The State shall promote comprehensive rural development and agrarian reform";

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Section 9 of the same states that, "The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all";

WHEREAS, *The Philippine Star* in its 11 June 2008 news report stated that contributing factors to the food shortage are the scarcity and rise in prices of fertilizers;

WHEREAS, fertilizers are like vitamins for the soil and consists of three main types—nitrogen, potash and phosphate;

WHEREAS, farmers could not expect bigger harvests if they do not use fertilizers;

WHEREAS, fertilizers were essential in the Green Revolution of the past few decades where farmers, especially in poor countries, were able to dramatically increase crop yields;

WHEREAS, today, farmers around the world are forced to use fertilizers more sparingly aside from facing shortages and dealing with unscrupulous dealers selling poor quality products;

WHEREAS, because some fertilizers such as nitrogen, require energy to produce they track energy prices;

WHEREAS, other kinds of fertilizers, including potash and phosphate, are just in high demand even if there is no shortage;

WHEREAS, a bag of fertilizers now sells for nearly P1, 800, or \$43, up from less than P1000 a year ago;

WHEREAS, many farmers fear that if the prices of oil continue to shoot up, the prices of fertilizers will also increase;

WHEREAS, like the Philippines, other countries are suffering from the effect of soaring fertilizer prices;

WHEREAS, last year China agreed to pay more than triple the price of potash a year ago, sending the shares of global fertilizer makers to record levels;

WHEREAS, the rising price of fertilizers is a burden on rich and poor farmers alike, as they represent a big investment up front, despite high world prices for crops;

WHEREAS, the State should have a particular interest in this issue because it affects food production, food supply and inevitably, the prices of crops as well;

WHEREAS, government subsidy may not be the only remedy to cushion the increasing rates of fertilizers;

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the State conduct a study on how to lower or halt the increasing prices of fertilizers;

WHEREAS, the State should encourage local scientists and agriculturists to help address the problem by creating or discovering alternatives to imported fertilizers;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the rising prices of fertilizers on the market.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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