

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

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SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 692

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,  
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE NEED FOR A WHOLESAL REINVESTMENT  
IN AGRICULTURE THAT WILL INCLUDE RESEARCH INTO BETTER AND  
IMPROVED TECHNOLOGY, INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT, AND  
TRAINING AND EDUCATION OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENTISTS AND  
TRAINERS

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

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 13, Section 5 states, “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 *Philippine Daily Inquirer* in its 21 September 2008 issue, reported that the International Rice Research Institute (Irri) warned that the Philippines needs to invest heavily in agriculture because failure to do so will lead to a long term crisis that would make the price hikes of 2008 a “mere blip”;

WHEREAS, the prices of grains and other cereals have skyrocketed this year, while major rice exporting countries imposed export bans, which limited the supply of grains in the world trade;

WHEREAS, Irri says that countries need a wholesale reinvestment in agriculture that will include research into better and improved technology, infrastructure development, and training and education of agricultural scientists and trainers;

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Woods, Irri board chair, allegedly said that the global community must remember that growth in agricultural productivity is the only way to ensure that people have access to enough affordable food, and that this is a long-term effort;

WHEREAS, Woods also explained that the wholesale reinvestment in agriculture should be a continuous process with permanent funds. She said that a year or two of extra funding for agriculture research is not enough because to ensure that improved technologies flow from the research and development pipeline, a sustained re-investment in agriculture is crucial;

WHEREAS, with the country highly dependent on rice as a staple, the Philippines should utilize its rich agricultural lands to research further on agricultural development;

WHEREAS, industrialization is the key to forming a strong agricultural sector that will meet the demands of the global food shortage foreseen by the Irri. The government could address the issue by not just allocating more funds to agriculture but also by creating incentives for firms and non government organizations that will invest in agriculture and industrialize farming;

WHEREAS, the government should tie up with the University of the Philippines and develop short term, mid term and long term goals that will heed the call of Irri to create a sustainable agricultural foundation;

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 need for a wholesale reinvestment in agriculture that will include research into better and improved technology, infrastructure development, and training and education of agricultural scientists and trainers.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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