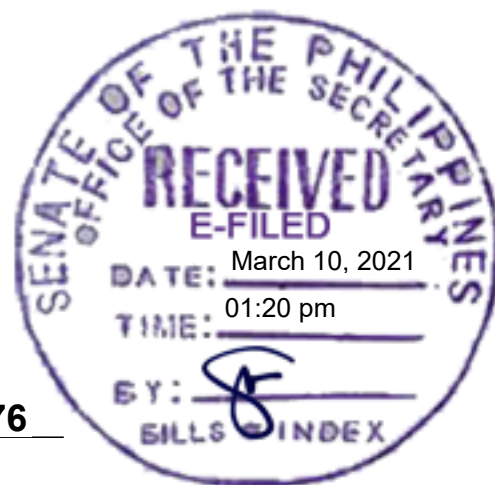


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



SENATE

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 676

Introduced by Senator FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN

RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (DA) TO RECOMMEND TO THE PRESIDENT TO DECLARE A STATE OF NATIONAL CALAMITY DUE TO THE SEVERE IMPACT OF AFRICAN SWINE FEVER (ASF) ON THE SWINE INDUSTRY

WHEREAS, the African Swine Fever (ASF), a highly contagious disease affecting pigs and wild boar with up to 100% case fatality rate, was first reported in the Philippines in August 2019, spreading to 12 regions, 40 provinces, 458 municipalities, and 2,361 barangays nationwide;

WHEREAS, according to the Department of Agriculture (DA), the total number of hogs culled as part of ASF containment procedures has reached 442,014. Private industry hog raisers estimate that around 4.7 million hogs are affected by ASF, equivalent to over a third of the country's pig stocks;

WHEREAS, in December 2020, the DA said the ASF outbreak has already cost the swine industry some P56 billion, with the estimated value based on more than 400,000 pigs culled and the decision of several farms to cut down on production. The industry is worth around P248 billion;

WHEREAS, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), the total swine inventory as of January 2021 was estimated at 9.72 million heads, a 24.1 percent decline from the previous year's level of 12.8 million heads. Population in backyard and commercial farms contracted by 13.3 percent and 41.8 percent, respectively;

WHEREAS, the ASF outbreak has significantly affected the country's pork supply resulting in retail prices of pork to go as high as P450 per kilogram in January 2021. To address this, the President issued Executive Order No. 124, series of 2021 imposing a price ceiling on selected pork and chicken products in the National Capital Region;

WHEREAS, to combat the ASF's massive damage to the swine industry and institute biosecurity and disease control measures as well as calibrated repopulation and enhancement of the local industry to revive the sector, the DA launched the Integrated National Swine Production Initiatives for Recovery and Expansion (INSPIRE) and the Bantay ASF sa Barangay or BABAy ASF Program;

WHEREAS, the INSPIRE program will be implemented from 2021 to 2023 with an estimated P61.33 billion required budget. For 2021, the DA would need P8.6 billion to fund the direct interventions under INSPIRE, of which, P2.6 billion in funds are available;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 10121, or the “Philippine Disaster Reduction and Management Act of 2010” created the (a) National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund (NDRRM Fund) that can be used “for relief recovery, reconstruction and other work or services in connection with natural or human induced calamities”; and (b) Quick Response Fund or “a stand-by fund for relief and recovery programs in order that situation and living conditions of people in communities or areas stricken by disasters, calamities, epidemics, or complex emergencies, may be normalized as quickly as possible”;

WHEREAS, a declaration of a State of Calamity throughout the Philippines due to ASF will, among others, afford the DA, as well as local government units (LGUs) and other concerned agencies, ample latitude to utilize appropriate funds, including the Quick Response Fund, in their disaster preparedness and response efforts to address the ASF outbreak;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article VI, Section 25(5) and Section 66 of the 2021 General Appropriations Act (GAA), the President may also declare and use savings in their respective appropriations to augment actual deficiencies, which may be additional requirements for a program, activity or project in view of a declaration of a state of national calamity, incurred for the current year in any item of their respective appropriations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Department of Agriculture (DA) to recommend to the President to declare a State of National Calamity due to the severe impact of African Swine Fever (ASF) on the swine industry.

Adopted,



FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN