

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

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 236

RECEIVED BY                     

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON ENSURING THE COUNTRY'S FOOD SECURITY AND SUFFICIENCY IN LIGHT OF THE NEGATIVE FOOD PRODUCTION OUTPUT FOR 2009 DUE TO SEVERE DAMAGES INFLICTED BY TROPICAL STORMS "ONDOY" AND "PEPENG"

WHEREAS, various news articles last 23 Sept 2010 reported that according to the Department of Agriculture (DA), the farm sector has failed to recover from the negative output for 2009 due to severe damages inflicted by tropical storms "Ondoy" and "Pepeng";

WHEREAS, the DA reported that inclement weather conditions brought down second quarter farm production by 2.18 percent and by 2.88 percent in the first quarter of the year;

WHEREAS, due to this shortfall, the Philippines may be forced to import about one million tons of rice for 2011;

WHEREAS, National Food Authority (NFA) officials reportedly said that on top of having only P2 billion out of the P8 billion budget allocated for the agency for this year, the NFA's losses rose to P 177 billion, of which P 54 billion comprise of suppliers' credit;

WHEREAS, on the other hand, Rolando Ty, executive director of the University of Asia and the Pacific Center for Food and Agri Business, said on a report last 6 October 2010 that the country is unlikely to face a rice crisis in 2011, and that food security is the more immediate problem of the country;

WHEREAS, the food and agriculture expert reportedly said that based on a study they conducted, there is a need for a more intensive, science-based research to increase farm yields, and a need to funnel more funds to research and development for drought-resistant and submergence-tolerant rice varieties;

WHEREAS, the study also claimed that long-term food security is possible if the government will address the need for higher budget for climate-change adaptation, and if it refocuses on diversification of food sources to less-water intensive crops like corn, banana, sweet potato or *camote*, cassava, and taro or *gabi*; it also recommended

enhancing irrigation system efficiencies and investments in watershed management and reforestation;

WHEREAS, Congress, through legislation and its power of the purse, should be flexible and adaptable in its policies in ensuring food security and sufficiency for Filipinos, and implement safeguards and failsafe plans in the event of shortfalls in food production in the country;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the Senate committee on agriculture and food, to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on ensuring the country's food security and sufficiency in light of the negative food production output for 2009 due to severe damages inflicted by tropical storms "Ondoy" and "Pepeng".

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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