

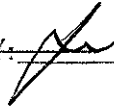
FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 296

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY, AGRICULTURE, AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON IMPROVING AND STRENGTHENING THE COMPETITIVENESS OF THE LOCAL HALAL INDUSTRY IN THE GLOBAL MARKET AND SECURING THE STANDARDS OF LOCAL HALAL PRODUCTS

WHEREAS, according to various news reports last 22 October 2010, officials from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) in Region 12 called on making the local halal industry more competitive as it is currently reportedly worth \$600 billion in the global industry;

WHEREAS, the BFAR officials said that there are current malpractices of certain halal-certified local processing plants that pose risk of the country being edged out by our neighbors in the global market;

WHEREAS, according to the reports, BFAR Region 12 Director Sani D. Macabalang said he had already recommended to the Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Proceso Alcala a three-pronged approach to make the country's halal industry competitive in the global halal market: harmonize the country's halal protocols observed by the various government agencies, improve halal certification or accreditation, and build up capabilities of halal food inspectors;

WHEREAS, Macabalang also reportedly said that observations from local and foreign participants of the International Halal Poultry Standards Training Workshop in Cagayan de Oro City last October placed the country's halal industry in a bad light after a visit to a local poultry processing plant since proper halal protocols as taught in the training were not seen in the plant, which was said to produce halal poultry chicken;

WHEREAS, the report said that drafts for the Philippine National Standard on Halal Foods and the Code of Practices for Halal Poultry and Halal Large and Small Ruminants are yet to be finalized, all of which were developed by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI);

WHEREAS, ensuring the standards of halal products, both for local consumption and for export, should be a coordinated task by the DA, DTI, Department of Science and Technology, and the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos;

WHEREAS, Congress should take steps in strengthening the local halal industry for it promises to greatly contribute to the national economy and particularly benefits Muslim Filipinos;

WHEREAS, there are pending bills in the Senate that caters to the halal industry and could bolster its growth and lend accommodations to consumer rights with respect to being informed about the quality of halal products;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the Senate committees on trade and industry, agriculture, and science and technology, to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on improving and strengthening the competitiveness of the local halal industry in the global market and securing the standards of local halal products.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/ptmt