

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

Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 713

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF THE MASS ADOPTION OF
GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOs) ALLEGEDLY WITHOUT
THE REQUIRED CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 15 provides: "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them";

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 16 further mandates: "The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature";

WHEREAS, based on an article in the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, genetically altered crops with multiple genes from other organisms are expected to increase in number;

WHEREAS, according to the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) director Clarito Barron, BPI had already reviewed and approved 67 genetic modifications of plants or commonly referred to as transformation events;

WHEREAS, of these transformation events, eight are set to receive government approval for propagation; the plants under study include variants of corn, soy beans, potatoes, cotton, alfalfa, canola, and sugar beet;

WHEREAS, mass adoption of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) is expected to increase;

WHEREAS, public interest groups such as the Network Opposed to Genetically Modified Organizations oppose these approvals claiming that these have been made even when the safety of such GMO-crops to be used as human food is still highly questionable;

WHEREAS, BT Eggplant, for example, was just rejected by the Indian government only to find its way into our shores where approvals are done with no consultations with the sector that has the most at stake;

WHEREAS, these are the consumers whose health may be endangered by crops which may look like our natural crops but has actually been modified in the most basic level, its genetic make-up;

WHEREAS, GMOs create genetic pollution and are a major threat because GMOs cannot be recalled once released into the environment;

WHEREAS, these unnatural organisms also threaten farmers' livelihoods because GMOs are patented, they are owned and controlled solely by multinational corporations, and farmers can be prosecuted if they save these seeds for replanting;

WHEREAS, the planting and commercialization of GMOs are banned in many countries but unfortunately it is encouraged in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, it is imperative for our country to have comprehensive guidelines and strict monitoring of these potential danger to our environment and to our people's health;

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 adverse effects of the mass adoption of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) allegedly without the required consultation with stakeholders.

Adopted,

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MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/dpm