




SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
FIRST REGULAR SESSION)

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SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

P.S. Res. No. 389

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR CYNTHIA A. VILLAR

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED GARLIC IMPORTATION DONE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND ITS IMPLICATION TO THE SUDDEN RISE OF PRICES IN THE MARKET

WHEREAS, recently the price of garlic per kilo increased from P140.00 per kilo to Php 200.00 per kilo.

WHEREAS, there has been a reported decrease in local production, particularly in Ilocos Norte of garlic because of the lack of planting material.

WHEREAS, in November 24, 2016, the BPI announced that it will be accepting applications for import clearance of fresh garlic and fresh onion, provided that every importer has completed the necessary documents for submission. The BPI released a memorandum ordering the manual processing of clearance for onion and garlic imports from the point of application. (1)

WHEREAS, The Department of Agriculture reported that more than 57,000 metric tons of imported garlic has been given import clearance by the Bureau of Plant Industry and that as of this Month only 12,000 metric tons arrived. (Agri Dept inspects garlic cold storage in Tondo, Manila. (2)

WHEREAS, in 2014, the Mariano Marcos State University received a P10 Million grant from the Department of Agriculture to promote sustainable seed support of high quality garlic bulbs to farmers of Ilocos Norte in the form of loan which they repay one month after the harvest season.(3)

WHEREAS, together with the seed loan, the Department of Agriculture has tapped the services of MMSU, along with five other state agencies, to help revive the ailing Ilocos garlic the other agencies are the Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte, DA-BAR, ILAARRDEC, PhilRice-Batac, and the Bureau of Plant Industry.

WHEREAS, Ilocos Norte produces sixty nine percent (69%) of the country's garlic as follows: 2013- 5,435.76 MT; 2014 -5,706.46 MT; 2015 -6,934.00 MT and in 2016 - 3,518.90MT. The projected output this year is 5,966.10 MT brought about by good weather conditions but with a 10.36% decrease in the area planted due to lack of quality of planting materials. (5)

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Plant Industry, is mandated to continuously promote the development and make available good planting materials to local farmers, conserve native plants and natural genetic resources as provided for in Executive Orders 116 and 338.(6)

WHEREAS, the combined local production of garlic has only been an average of 9,000 MT a year, or six (6) percent only of the yearly demand of about 139, 777 MT which is barely a month's garlic requirement of the country.(7)

WHEREAS, RA No. 10623 or The Price Act 2012 entitled AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7581, ENTITLED "AN ACT PROVIDING PROTECTION TO CONSUMERS BY STABILIZING THE PRICES OF BASIC NECESSITIES AND PRIME COMMODITIES AND BY PRESCRIBING MEASURES AGAINST UNDUE PRICE INCREASES DURING EMERGENCY SITUATIONS AND LIKE OCCASIONS" AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, prohibits price manipulation of certain prime commodities including garlic.(8)

WHEREAS in Sec.5 of this law, Illegal acts of price manipulation shall include Cartel, which is any combination of or agreement between two (2) or more persons engaged in the production, manufacture, processing, storage, supply, distribution, marketing, sale or disposition of any basic necessity or prime commodity designed to artificially and unreasonably increase or manipulate its price. (9)

WHEREAS, in previous Senate Hearings on garlic importation particularly in July 2014, there were facts that showed price manipulation by certain traders by jacking up the selling price of imported garlic. (10)

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to look into the garlic price situation to protect the general public from unscrupulous machination and provide a development policy for local the garlic industry.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the proper Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the cause(s) of the exorbitant price of garlic in the local market at the moment.

Adopted,



CYNTHIA A. VILLAR

Sources:

- (1) <http://www.businessmirror.com.ph/da-issues-rules-for-new-import-permits/>
- (2) <http://ph.vltrends.com/2017/05/26/agri-dept-inspects-garlic-cold-storage-in-tondo-manila.html>
- (3) Farmers Trained in New Garlic Techno.
[http://www.mmsu.edu.ph/news/details/read/farmers trained on new garlic techno](http://www.mmsu.edu.ph/news/details/read/farmers%20trained%20on%20new%20garlic%20techno)
- (4) Interview conducted by the Provincial DA Mr. Edwin Carino of Ilocos Norte with Garlic Farmers and Traders headed by Nestor Acosta.
- (5) Country Statistics, Philippine Agriculture Figures, psa.gov.ph
- (6) Bureau of Plant Industry, Home. <http://www.bpi.da.gov.ph/index.php/about-us/mission-vision>
- (7) Country Statistics, Phil. Agriculture Figures, psa.gov.ph.
- (8) RA 10623. <http://pinoygov.blogspot.com/2013/09/republic-act-no-10623-price-act-amendment.html>
- (9) Ibid.
- (10) newsinfo.inquirer.net/.../villar-says-garlic-traders-conspired-to-manipulate-market
- (11) www.philstar.com:8080/headlines/2014/07/.../traders-manipulated-garlic-prices-villa