

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*Second Regular Session* )



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SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 560

RECEIVED

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Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

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**RESOLUTION**

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD TO CONDUCT AN IMMEDIATE INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE STATUS OF THE PROGRAMS OF THE PHILIPPINE COCONUT AUTHORITY CONSISTENT WITH THE PURSUIT OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COCONUT INDUSTRY BY FINALIZING THE COCONUT FARMER'S REGISTRY AND INDUSTRY ROAD MAP, WITH THE INTENTION OF PROMOTING THE COCONUT INDUSTRY AND INCREASING THE INCOME OF THE COCONUT FARMERS TO BRING THEM OUT OF POVERTY

WHEREAS, the coconut industry has been a contributor to the economy, accounting for an average of 1.14% of the country's Gross National Product (GNP);

WHEREAS, nearly thirty percent or one third of the country's arable agricultural land or about 3.517 million hectares are planted to coconut sprawling in sixty nine (69) provinces out of the eighty one provinces are coconut areas;

WHEREAS, the top coconut producing regions are as follows – Davao Region/XI (2.2 million MT); Northern Mindanao/X (1.85 million MT); Zamboanga Peninsula/IX (1.69 million MT) ; Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM)(1.39 million MT), and CALABARZON/VI-A (1.38 million MT);

WHEREAS, except for Davao Region (16.6%) and CALABARZON (8.9%), the three top producing Regions have very high poverty incidence vs. the National Average of 16.5%. The highest is ARMM at 48.2 percent, followed by Northern Mindanao at 30.3 percent and Zamboanga Peninsula at 26.0 percent poverty incidence; (PSA2105)

WHEREAS, the top agricultural exports are coconut oil (23%) banana fresh (13%); tuna (7%); pineapple and products (11%), with a total value of US\$ 5,132 million f.o.b.; (<http://countrystat.psa.gov.ph/?cont=3>)

WHEREAS, the Philippine yield at 4.4 Metric ton per hectare per year is the lowest in the ASEAN. Vietnam yield is the highest at 9.6 Metric Ton per hectare per year; Thailand, with 5 Metric ton per hectare per year and Indonesia with 6.5 Metric ton per hectare per year. This is because more than 95% of the coconut trees have poor genetics, a large part are senile, and most are not intercropped. That is why the coconut industry has seen a continuous decline in farm productivity over the years, with the average productivity of 45 nuts per tree per year from the ideal 150 nuts per tree per year; (Briones, 2016, FAOSTAT)

WHEREAS, the decreasing coconut production has been also due to nutrient-deficient trees, inadequate infrastructure and minimal research and development;

WHEREAS, there is a need to provide for the development of the coconut industry since it has the highest potential for growth through productivity enhancement, diversification, and industry value adding;

WHEREAS, the prospects are rosy given the diversity of products from coconut oil, desiccated coconut, coconut water, virgin coconut oil and coco sugar;

WHEREAS, A robust and sustained increase in exports would spur economic growth, create employment, and draw the coconut farmers into the social and economic mainstream and ultimately has the biggest potential of reducing rural poverty;

WHEREAS, it is critical to resolve policy issues such as infrastructure connectivity, the quality of extension services, the dynamism of research and development and the soundness of resource allocation of government to the sector;

WHEREAS, the Philippines lags behind in the race for the billion-dollar exports of ASEAN countries. In 2014, the leaders are Thailand with twelve (12) product exports and Vietnam with eight (8) product exports. Indonesia has six (6), Singapore has four (4), Malaysia has three (3) and Philippines has two (2), referring to coconut oil and bananas. (UN Trademap, Dy, 2017)

WHEREAS, the role of the Philippine Coconut Authority or PCA should be specific and vital in the development of the coconut industry taking into account the huge impact it has to the country's international trade and its poverty reduction goal.

WHEREAS, PCA is mandated to lead the industry development but unfortunately during the recent years it has low investment in increasing farm productivity, mechanization, intercropping and diversification. Planting, replanting, disease management and fertilization has been very slow. It seems to be also slow in the development and propagation of high yielding varieties and no resource allocation for multiplication of clones that are agro-climatic adaptable and produces more nuts per year;

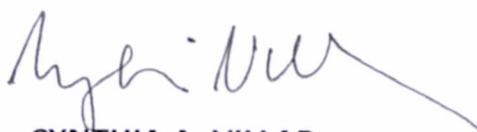
WHEREAS, PCA should have a strengthened, vibrant and vital eyes and heart for the development of the industry. The old and antiquated, low-input coconut farming technology it is practicing should be changed as it may not be sustainable to carry the industry to the next years of the ASEAN competition.

WHEREAS, if the government desires high growth in agriculture and job creation, it should look at the coconut lands as a major vehicle and it should provide support.

WHEREAS, there should be an industry developmental plan which should be clear and endorsed by the industry players and stakeholders.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Philippine Senate to direct the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Food to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the status of the Philippine Coconut Authority, with the end in view of ensuring that it will do its very important role for the benefit of the coconut farmers and the development of the coconut industry.

*Adopted,*



CYNTHIA A. VILLAR